BOOK one OF THREE

LEGEND OF THE HAWKMAN™

The Fallen One

BEN RAAB & MICHAEL LARK

WITH LEE LOUGHRIDGE

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LEGEND OF THE HAWKMAN™

Book One of Three

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PRINTED IN CANADA.
DC COMICS. A DIVISION OF WARNER BROS.–A TIME WARNER ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY

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CHAPTER ONE

The Fallen One

DOCTOR TANN...?
COFFEE?
Hmm?
THANK YOU, DOCTOR MITRANI. MY MIND WAS...
...ELSEWHERE.
DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE SOMETHING'S UP THERE, JOHNATHAN ?
I'D STAKE MY REPUTATION ON IT.

THE SHERPA HAVE BEEN AT IT FOR HOURS.
CHANTING. PRAYING. PREPARING...
BUT FOR WHAT...?

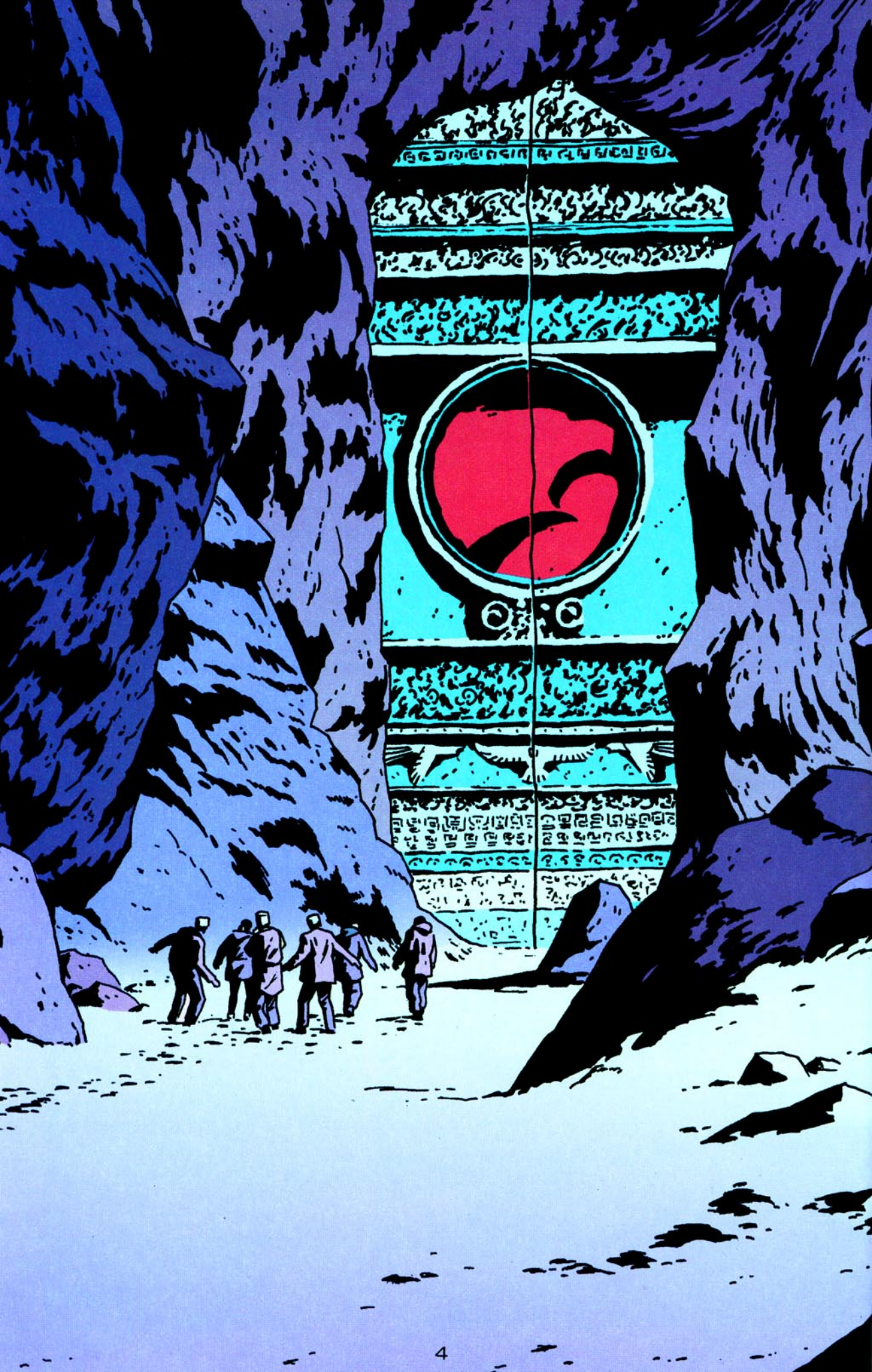
JOHNATHAN! DINA! COME QUICKLY! I'VE FOUND SOMETHING!

EASY, WALLIS. LET YOUR LUNGS ACCLIMATIZE...

NO TIME! FOLLOW ME!
THIS IS IT, JOHNATHAN! THE REWARD FOR ALL OUR HARD WORK AND RESEARCH!
IT'S A DREAM COME TRUE!

I HAD BEEN CLIMBING FOR SOME TIME. BECAUSE OF THE EXTREME ALTITUDE, MY LUNGS WERE STARTING TO BURN.
TO AVOID PASSING OUT, I LEANED AGAINST THE CLIFF SIDE...

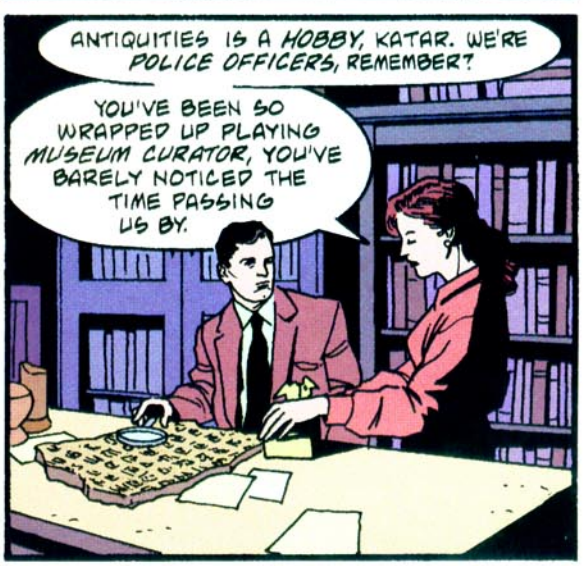
...AND THAT'S WHEN I FOUND THIS.
UNBELIEVABLE...

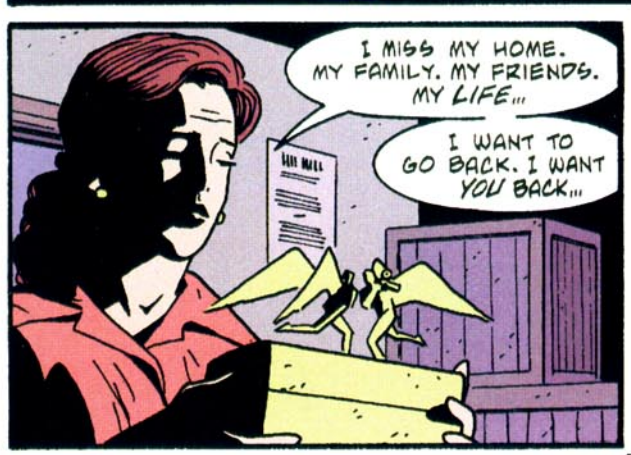


MIDWAY CITY.
CAN WE PLEASE WRAP THIS UP AND GO HOME, KATAR?
MIDWAY CITY MUSEUM

MONTHS, KATAR. THAT'S HOW LONG I'VE BEEN WAITING TO RETURN TO THANAGAR.
SHYERA, YOU KNOW THE MUSEUM'S ANXIOUS TO OPEN THIS "EXTRATERRESTRIAL TREASURES" EXHIBIT NEXT WEEK.
THE CLOCK'S TICKING.
FRAGILE HANDLE WITH CARE
KRYPTONIAN RELICS
PROPERTY OF SUPERMAN
NEW GENESIS CAVE PAINTINGS
DO NOT OXIDIZE

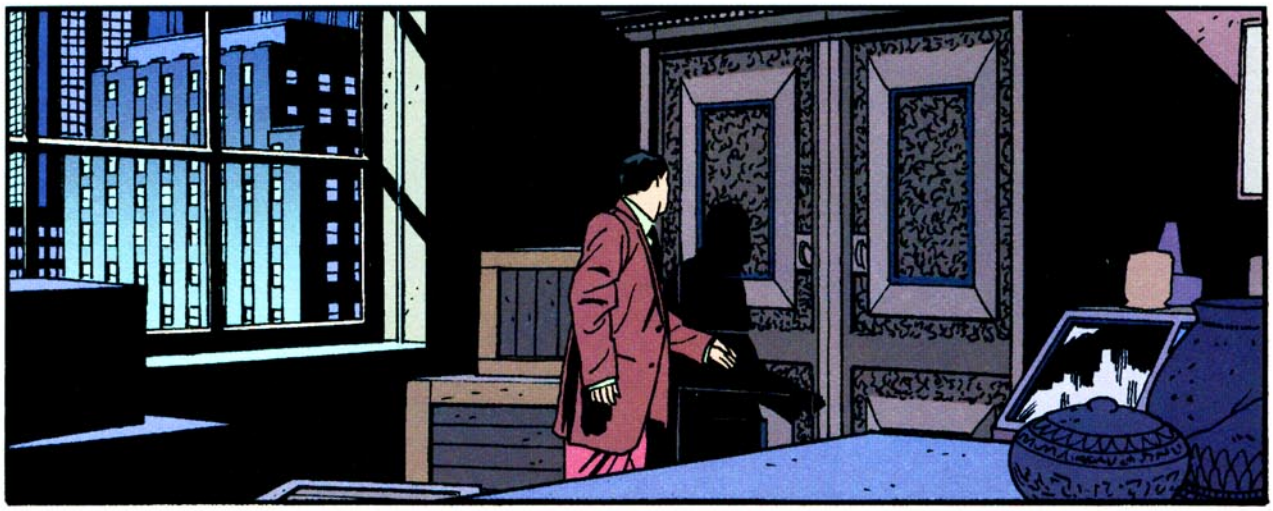
YOU SAID THAT ABOUT THE LAST EXHIBIT. SIX MONTHS AGO.
THIS IS IMPORTANT WORK, SHAY.


ANTIQUITIES IS A HOBBY, KATAR. WE'RE POLICE OFFICERS, REMEMBER?
YOU'VE BEEN SO WRAPPED UP PLAYING MUSEUM CURATOR, YOU'VE BARELY NOTICED THE TIME PASSING US BY.

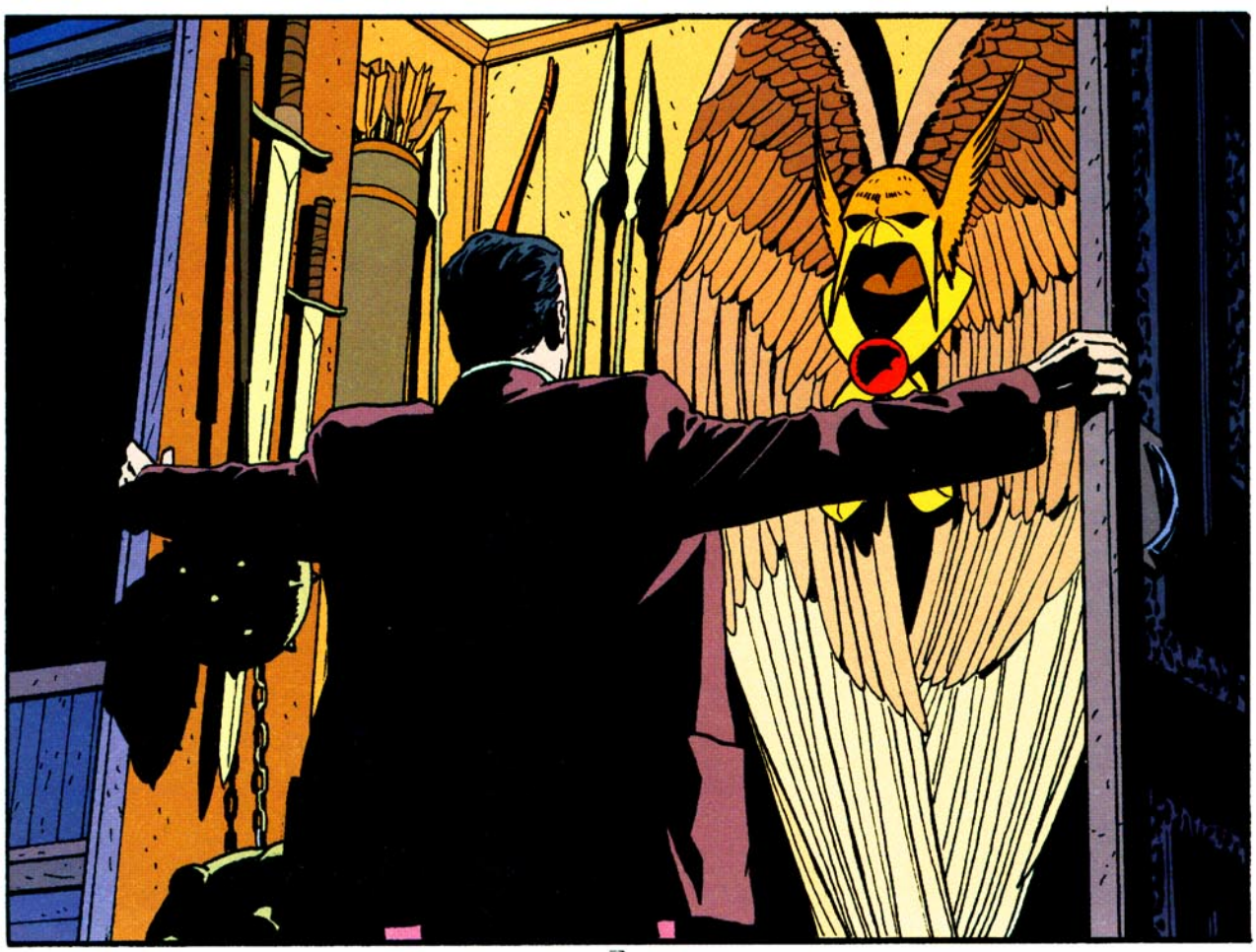

I MISS MY HOME. MY FAMILY. MY FRIENDS. MY LIFE...
I WANT TO GO BACK. I WANT YOU BACK...

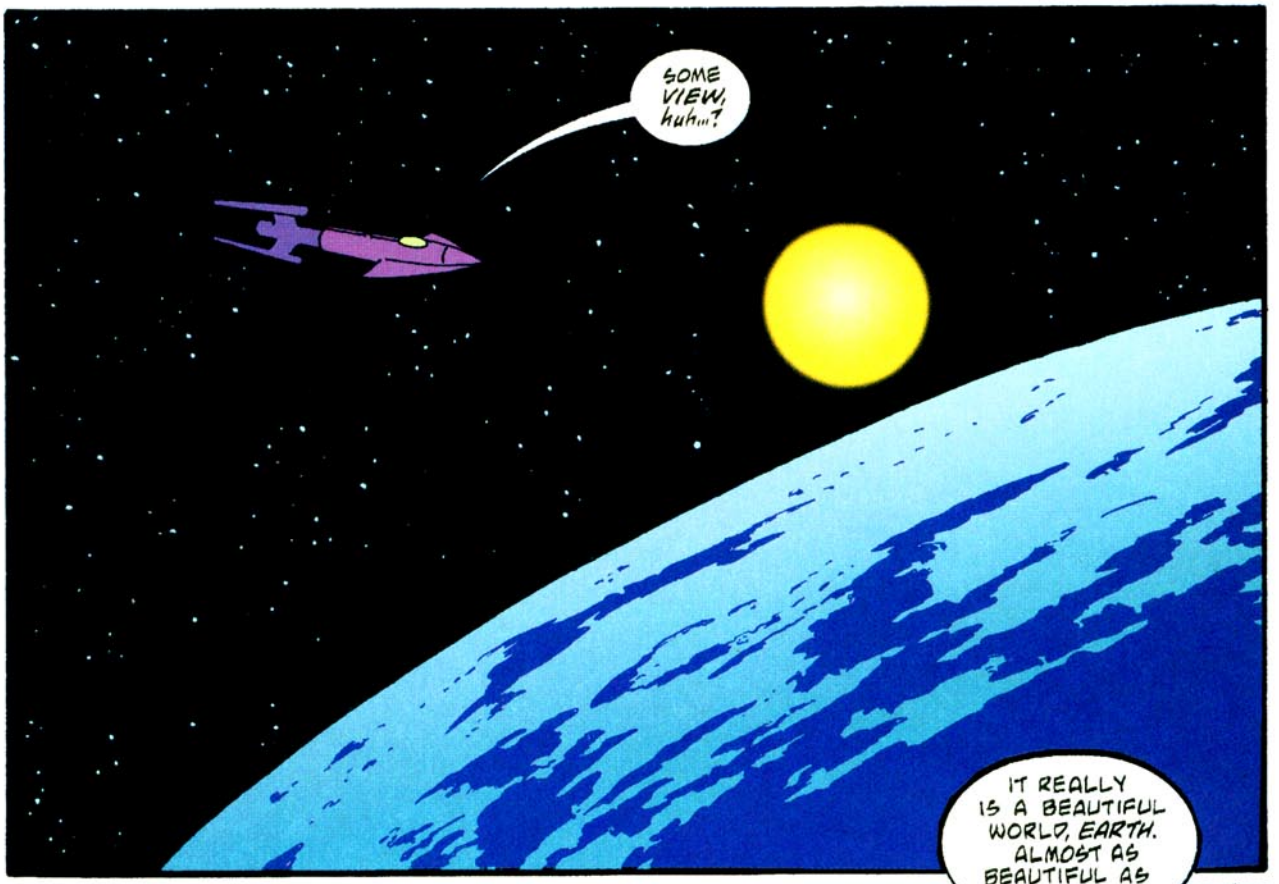
I THOUGHT WE AGREED EARTH IS OUR HOME NOW. FOR THE TIME BEING AT LEAST.
THERE'S SO MUCH WE CAN LEARN ABOUT THIS WORLD.
ABOUT ITS PEOPLE, ITS CULTURE. ABOUT OURSELVES...

YOU EXPECT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YOURSELF ON AN ALIEN PLANET--
--SURROUNDED BY RELICS FROM EVERY OTHER WORLD IN THE GALAXY BUT YOUR OWN...?
FINE. STAY.
I'M GOING HOME.
MISTER HALL?
SORRY TO DISTURB YOU, SIR. THIS JUST CAME FROM THE TIBETAN EXPEDITION.
Carter
Something your friend might recognize?
--Jonathan
IT LOOKED URGENT...
BETTER HOLD MY CALLS, EDITH...



BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

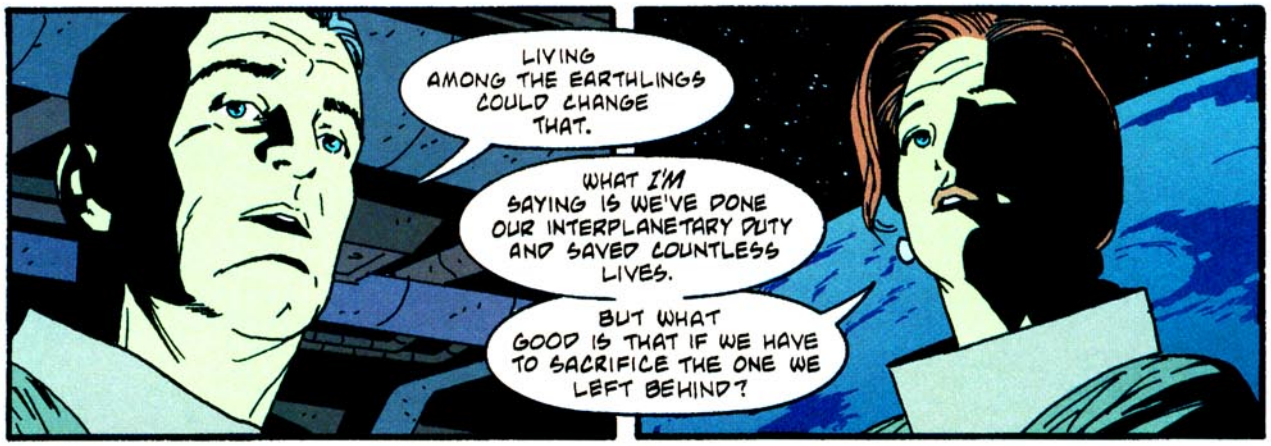



SOME VIEW, huh...?

IT REALLY IS A BEAUTIFUL WORLD, EARTH. ALMOST AS BEAUTIFUL AS THANAGAR.
ALMOST.

COMMISSIONER EMMETT WAS VERY KIND TO HAVE SET US UP WITH OUR JOBS AT THE MUSEUM AND OUR SECRET IDENTITIES...
ALL TO MAKE US FEEL LIKE WE REALLY BELONG.

BUT KATAR, WE DON'T BELONG! WE'RE STRANGERS TO THOSE PEOPLE DOWN THERE. FOREIGNERS.
ALIENS.


LIVING AMONG THE EARTHLINGS COULD CHANGE THAT.
WHAT I'M SAYING IS WE'VE DONE OUR INTERPLANETARY DUTY AND SAVED COUNTLESS LIVES.
BUT WHAT GOOD IS THAT IF WE HAVE TO SACRIFICE THE ONE WE LEFT BEHIND?

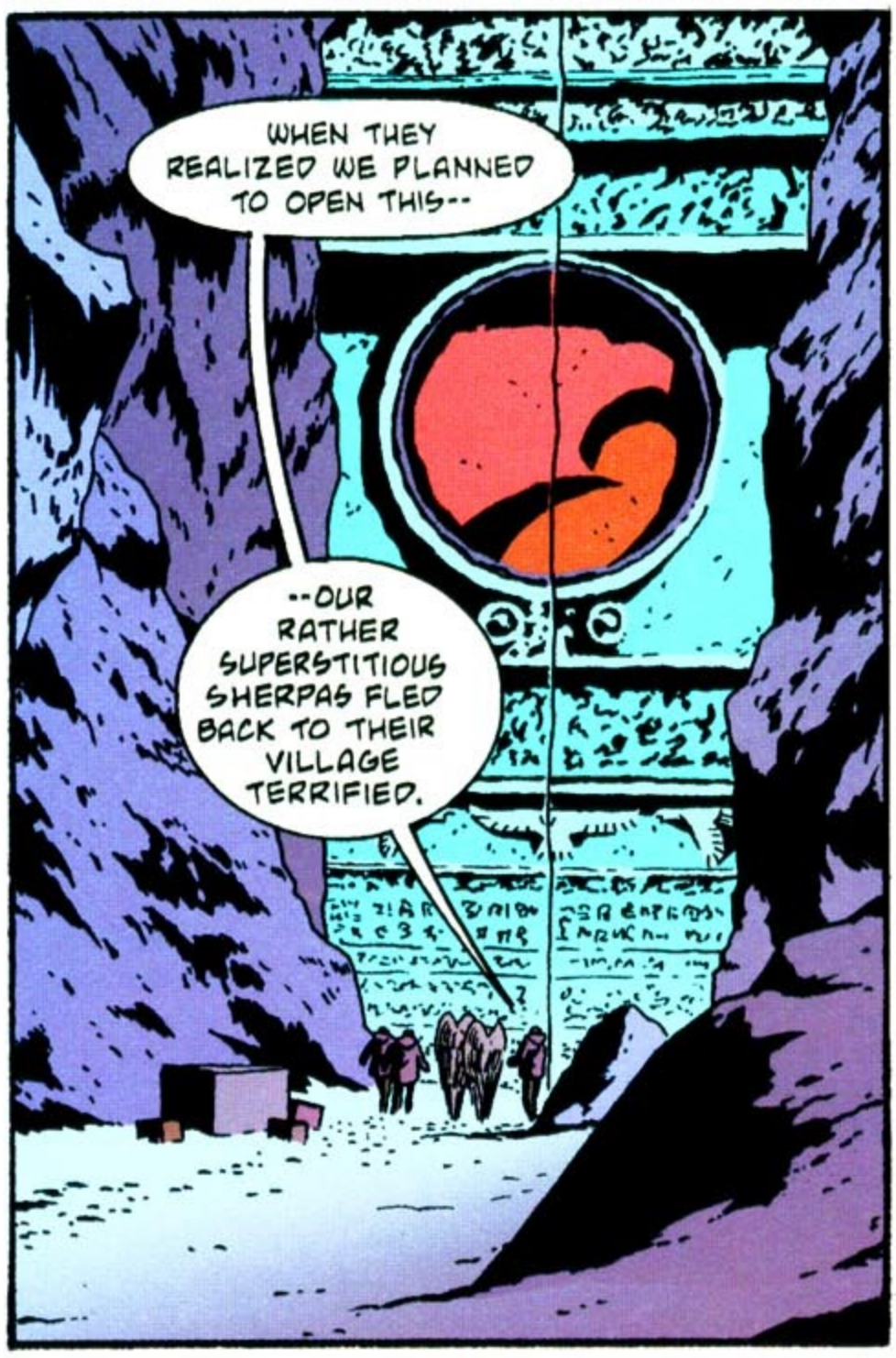
HERE.
WHAT'S THIS?
AN ANCIENT ROMAN JAVELIN.
LEGEND HAS IT CAESAR PRESENTED A HUNDRED OF THESE TO CLEOPATRA AFTER THE BIRTH OF THEIR SON.
A WARD TO PROTECT THE UNEXPECTED NEW LIFE THEIR UNION CREATED.
UH, HON, WE DON'T HAVE ANY CHILDREN...

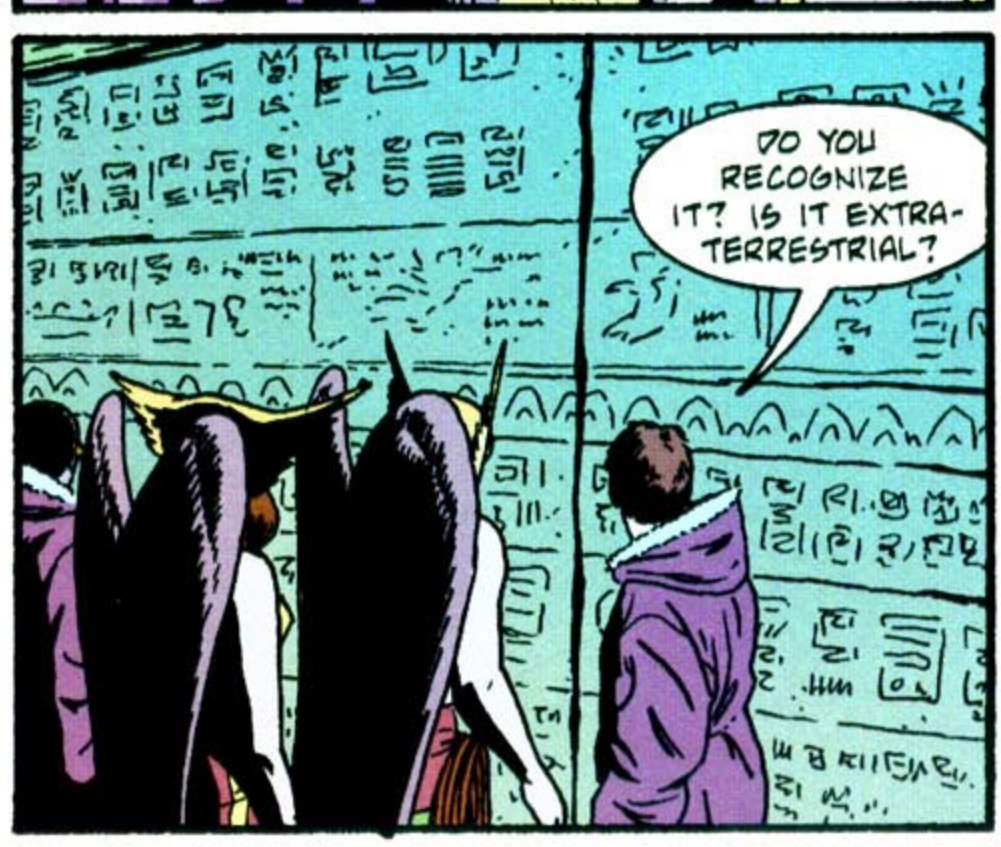
THE POINT BEING... THIS MAY NOT BE THE LIFE WE IMAGINED WHEN WE GOT MARRIED, SHAYERA, BUT IT'S THE ONE WE'RE LIVING.
AT LEAST WE'RE DOING IT TOGETHER.

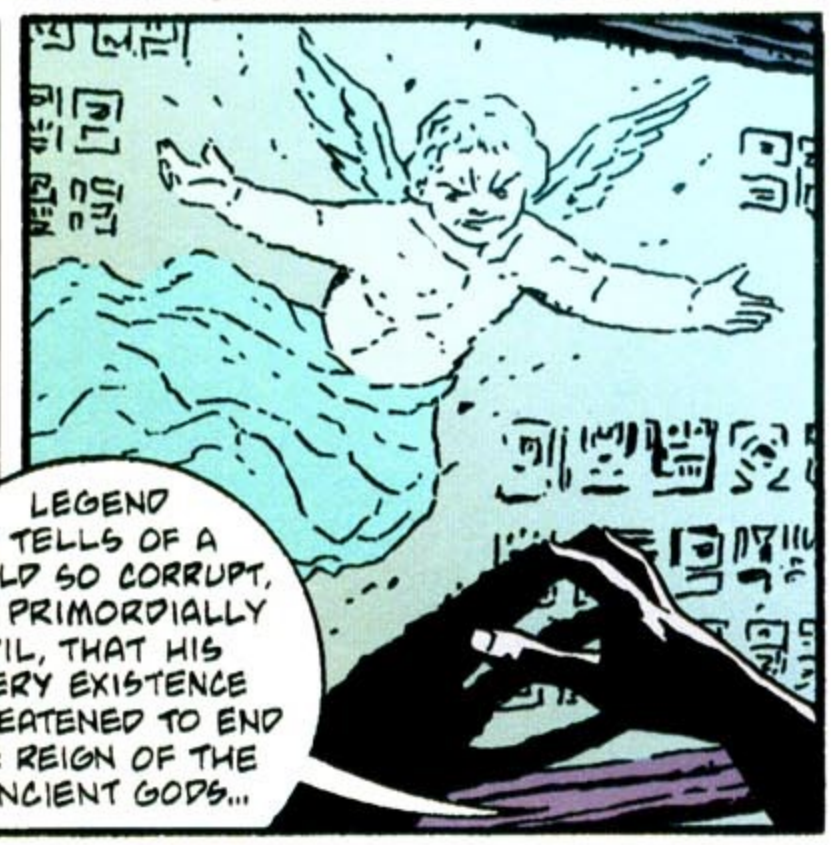
RIGHT?
YES, BUT--
GOOD...

...BECAUSE WE'RE GOING TO TIBET.

...SO, CARTER ACTUALLY KNOWS THEM? MIDWAY CITY'S VERY OWN SUPER-HEROES?
THEY'RE... FRIENDS?
SO HE SAYS.
WOW.







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"TO PURGE THEIR HALLOWED HALLS OF THIS FESTERING POX, THE GODS BANISHED THASARD FROM HEAVEN...
"...CONDEMNING HIS SOUL TO THE FIERY NESTS OF HELL FOR ALL ETERNITY.
"BUT THEY HAD UNDERESTIMATED THEIR ADVERSARY.
"TRANSFORMED BY PERDITION'S FLAMES, THE BEAST ROSE ANEW LIKE A PHOENIX FROM THE ASHES--
"--TWICE AS POWERFUL AND WITH A HEART BLACKER THAN HATE ITSELF.
"AND SO, WITH HIS DEMON HORDES ON THE WING, THE FALLEN ONE RETURNED TO THE AERIE...
"...SEEKING VENGEANCE.

"SWIFT WAS THE BATTLE. BRUTAL, THE SLAUGHTER. BLOODY, THE AERIE'S DEFEAT.

"ALL WOULD HAVE BEEN LOST THAT DAY, IF NOT FOR THE COURAGE OF A LONE HERO...

"...THE WARRIOR NAMED *HOL*.

"ARMED WITH BUT A SINGLE, BLESSED *FEATHER*, HE CONFRONTED THE TERRIBLE BEAST...

"...AND LAID THE MONSTER LOW.

"TO INSURE THE DEMON'S ETERNAL DEFEAT, THE SURVIVING GODS WORKED THEIR HOARY MAGICKS TO BIND HIS SOUL WITHIN AN UNBREAKABLE MYSTIC URN.

"PON THE WINGS OF MIGHTY HOL, SAVIOR OF ALL THANAGAR, WAS BESTOWED THE HONOR OF BEARING HIS MAGICAL PRISON ACROSS THE KNOWN GALAXIES.

"...THAT IT SHOULD BE BURIED 'NEATH A NEWBORN WORLD IN THE LIGHT OF SOME FARAWAY SUN.

"AND THERE HATH THE ACCURSED SOUL OF THASARO RESTED E'ER SINCE...
"...AWAITING THE DAY WHEN IT SHALL RISE AGAIN TO STALK THE LAST OF THE CHILDREN OF HOL THE UNIVERSE 'ROUND...
"...UNTO DEATH."

ARE YOU SAYING ALL THAT STANDS BETWEEN US AND THAT DEMON'S PRISON IS THREE FEET OF ROCK...?
THAT'S THE LEGEND.

WE'VE GOT TO GET INSIDE! IT REALLY *IS* THE DISCOVERY OF A LIFETIME!

HOLD IT, FELLAS!
YOU'RE MESSING WITH SOMETHING FAR BEYOND OUR KEN HERE!

EASY, HAWKGIRL. IT'S ONLY A *MYTH*.
NOT TO OUR ANCESTORS IT WASN'T.

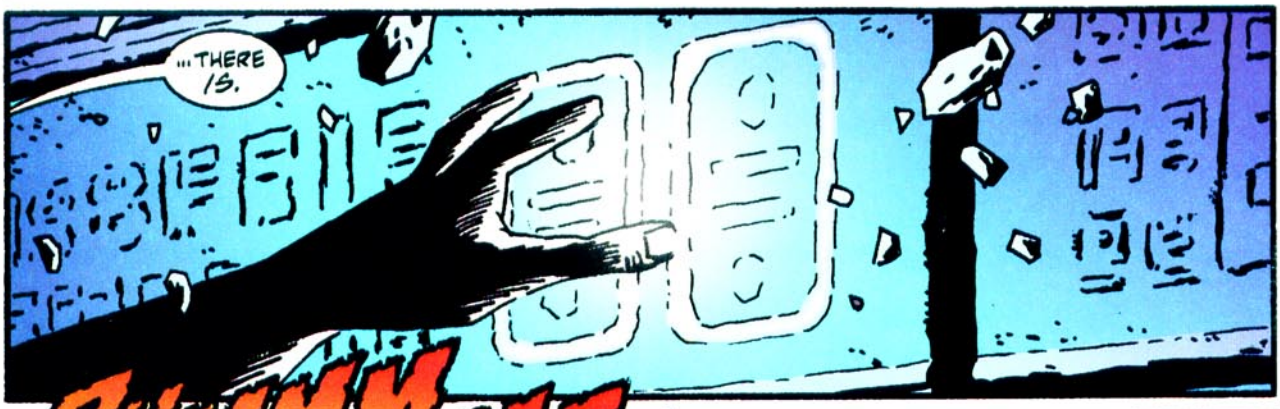
"*HOL*", KATAR. THAT'S YOUR *REAL* FAMILY NAME. WHAT IF *YOU'RE* ONE OF HIS DESCENDANTS?
UNLEASHING THAT BEAST SPELLS DEATH FOR YOU!
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU, KATAR. NOT *HERE*...

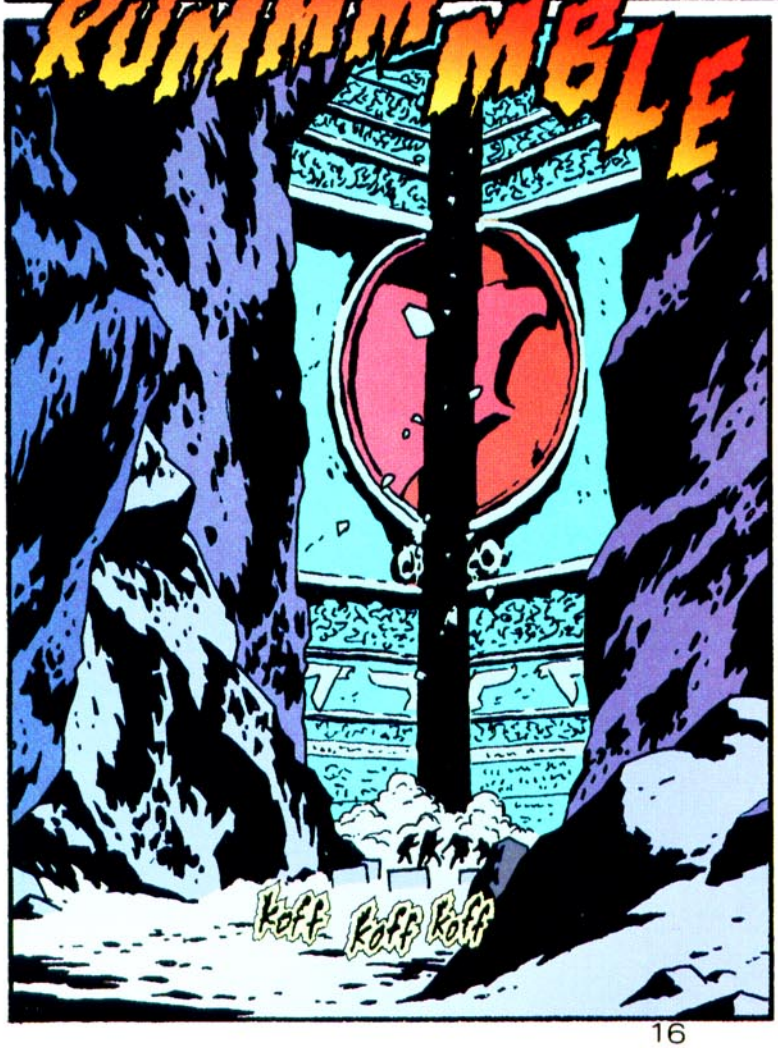
THIS ISN'T ABOUT THE CURSE... IS IT, SHAYERA? IT'S ABOUT OUR STAYING ON EARTH.
YOU'LL DO ANYTHING TO CONVINCE ME TO LEAVE!

APPARENTLY, YOU'LL DO ANYTHING TO STAY!
DARLING, WAIT!

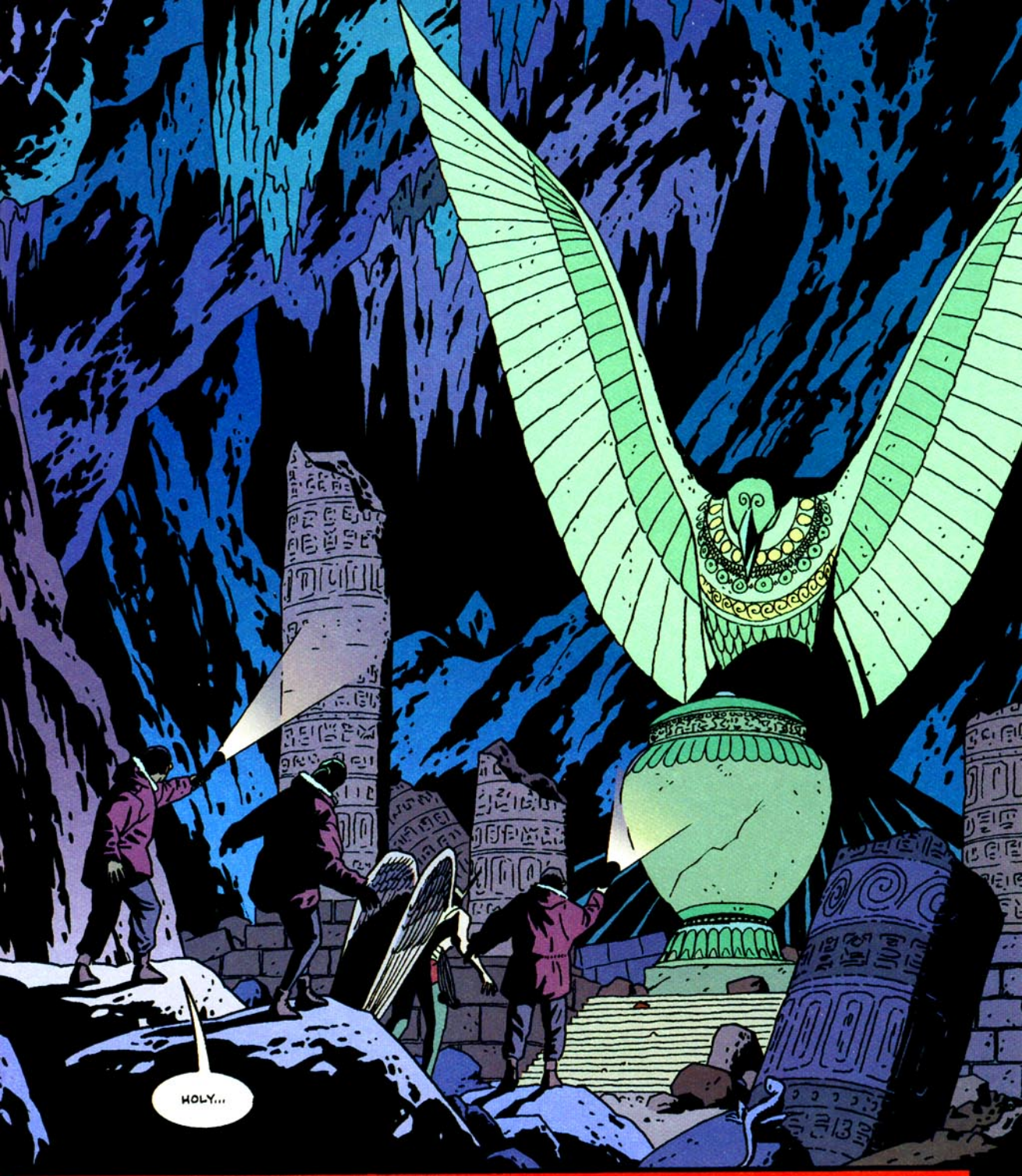
DON'T THINK WE CAN...uhhhh!... BUDGE IT!
WE'VE COME...uhhhh!... TOO FAR TO FAIL! KEEP... hrrr!... PULLING!

THERE MUST BE SOME WAY INSIDE.
ACCORDING TO THESE MARKINGS...


...THERE IS.


RUMMMMBLE
koff koff koff

HOW'D YOU DO THAT?
ANCIENT THANAGARIAN SECRET.


HOLY...

OK, PEOPLE. LET'S DO THIS.

THAT'S SOME CAN OPENER.
THIS DEVICE IS DESIGNED TO ABSORB AND RECHANNEL AMBIENT ENERGY ALONG ALL KNOWN FREQUENCIES AND WAVELENGTHS IN A CEASELESS ELECTROMAGNETIC LOOP.

MEANING ...?
NOT ONLY WILL IT OPEN THE "CAN", BUT IT'LL CONTAIN WHAT'S INSIDE.
IF IT WORKS...

HMMMM
IT'S WORKING!

?
splrt
THAT PROBABLY WASN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN...

GOOD GOD! IS THAT BLOOD???

THE ELECTRO-LOOP! I CAN'T MAINTAIN IT!
IT'S GOING TO--

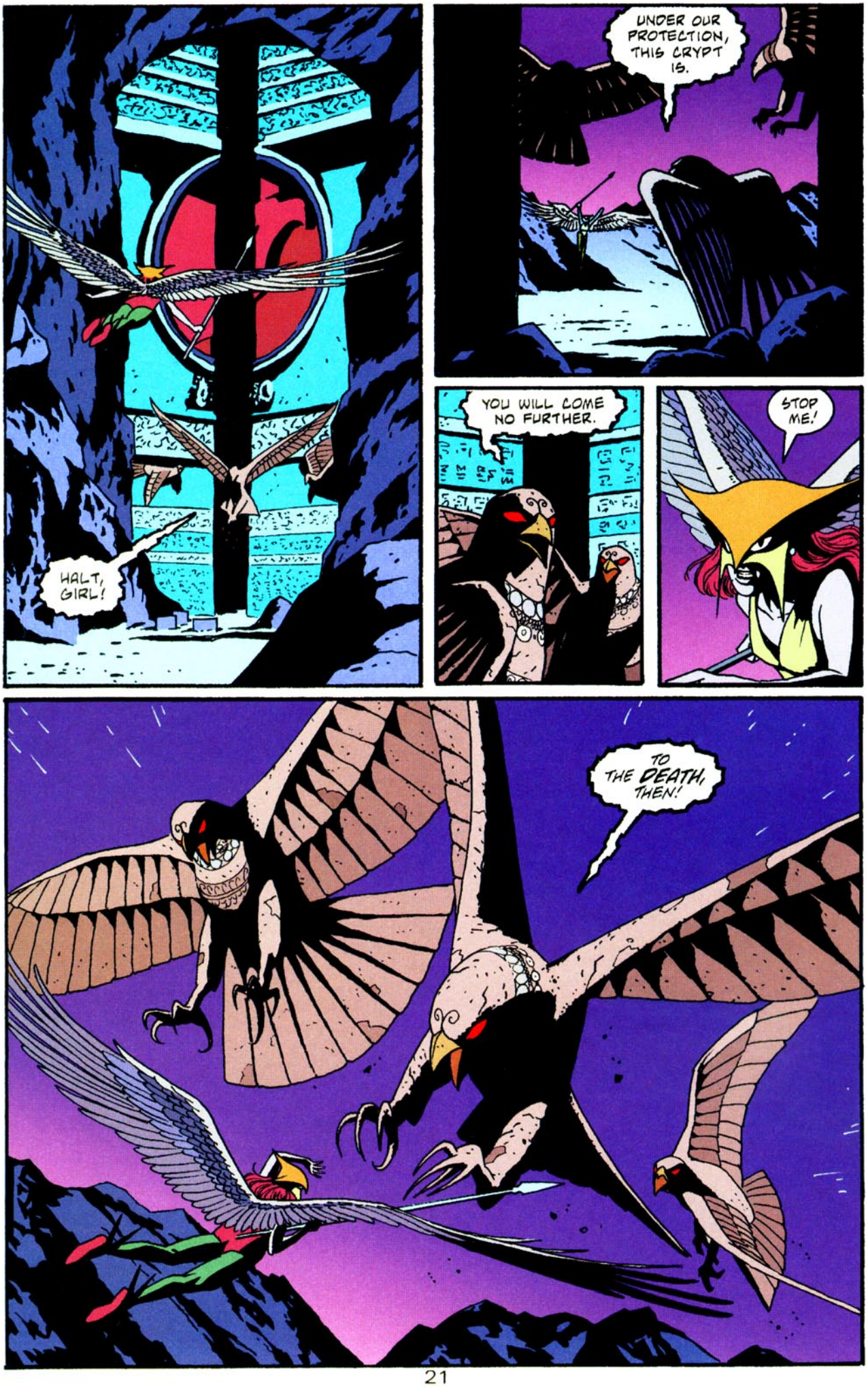
Uhhnh...
NO!
SKRREEEEEEEE!

THUD

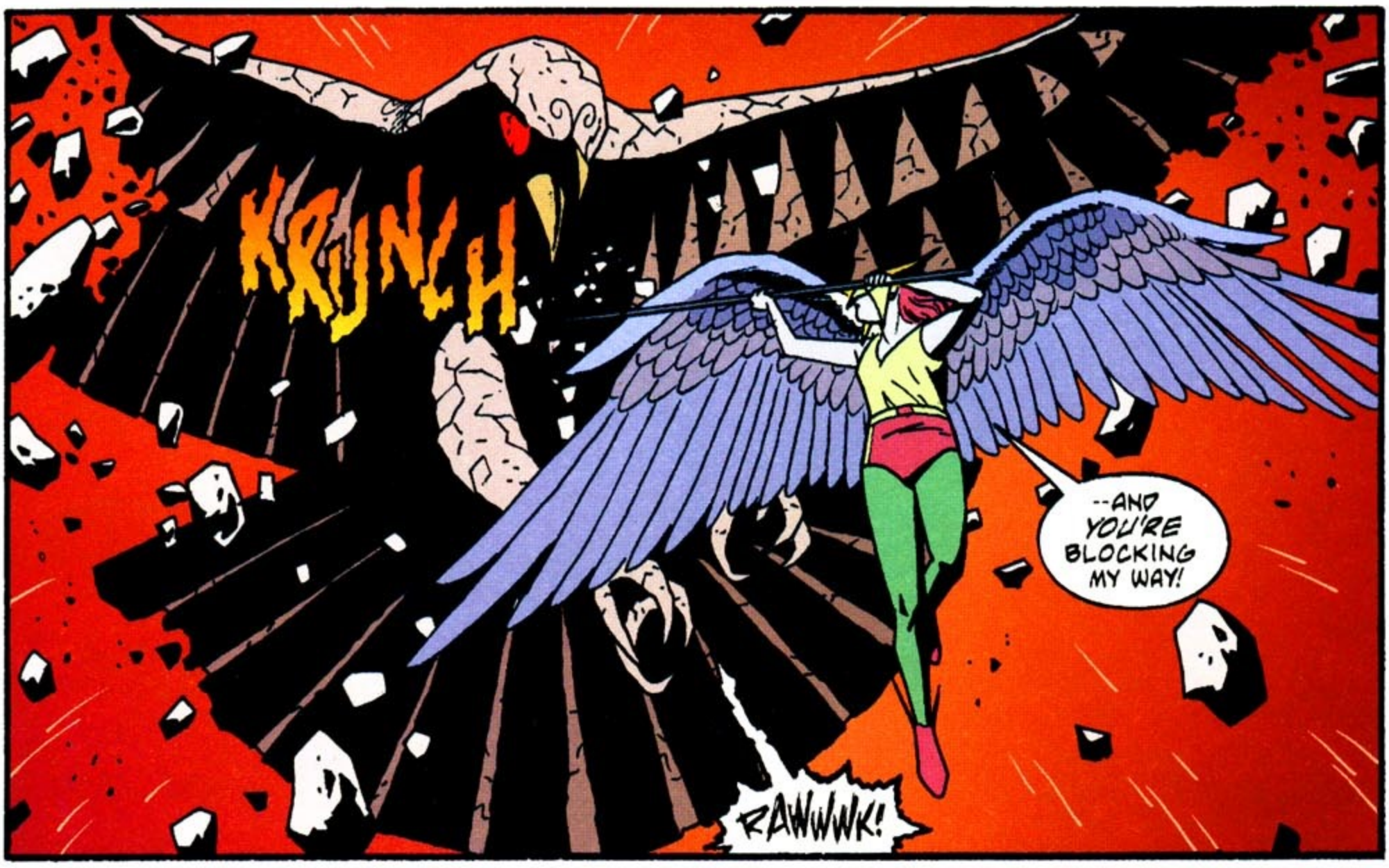
?

BEWARE.

ARRRGH!!!
KATAR?!


HALT, GIRL!
UNDER OUR PROTECTION, THIS CRYPT IS.
YOU WILL COME NO FURTHER.
STOP ME!
TO THE DEATH, THEN!

AS YOU WISH!
SKRAWK!
KRUNK
SKREEE!
DIE!!!
Uhhnn!
SKRAWK!
KRUNCH
ANOTHER TIME!



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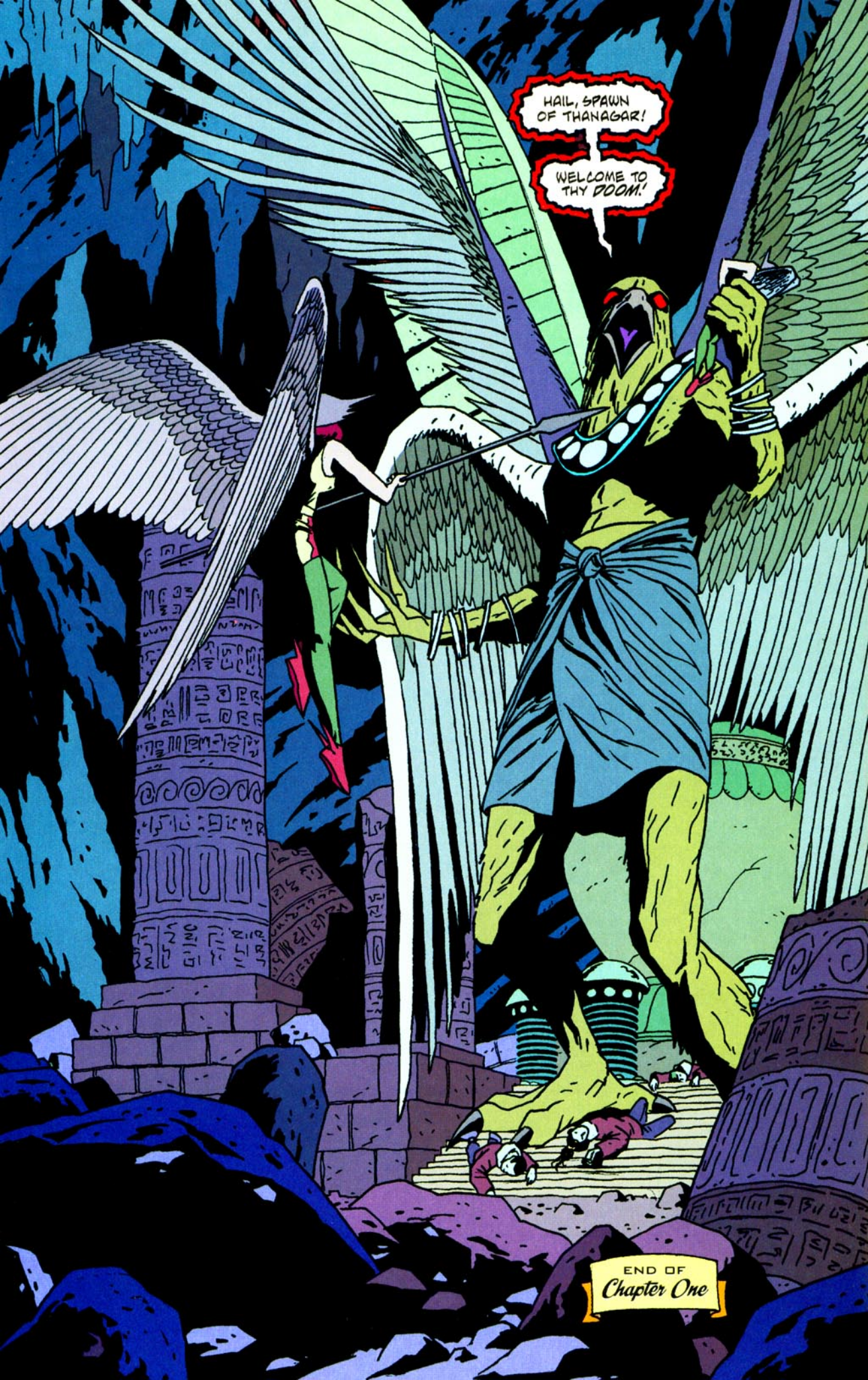
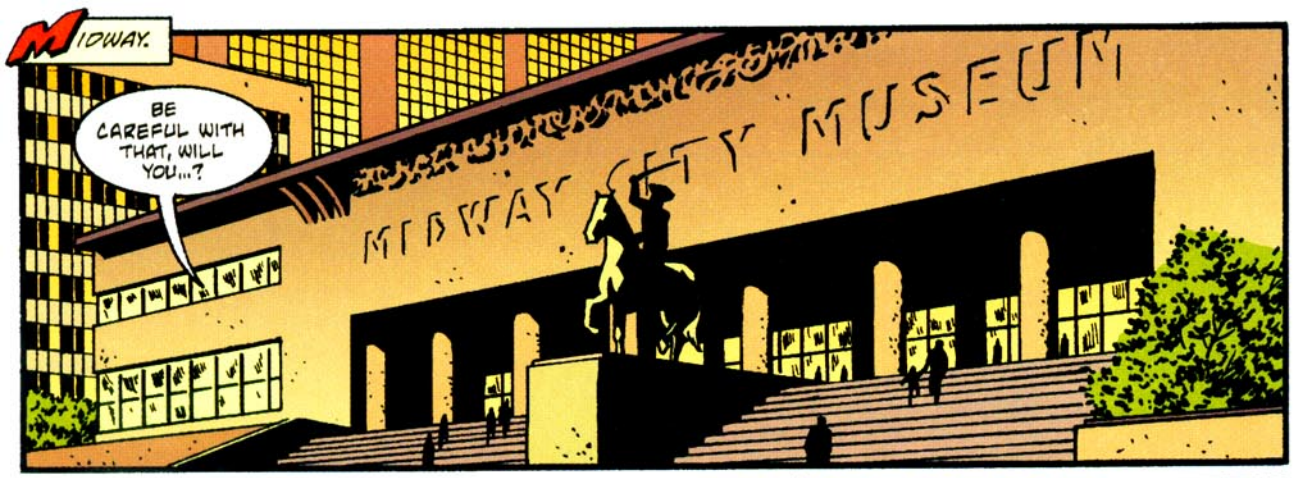

HAIL, SPAWN OF THANAGAR!
WELCOME TO THY DOOM!
END OF
Chapter One

CHAPTER TWO

The Fallen One


MIDWAY.
BE CAREFUL WITH THAT, WILL YOU...?
MIDWAY CITY MUSEUM

THAT'S AN ANCIENT PROTOTYPE MOEBIUS CHAIR ON LOAN FROM THE MUSEUM ON NEW GENESIS.
IT'S THE LAST OF ITS KIND.

MISTER HALL WILL HAVE ALL OUR HEADS IF ANY OF THE ARTIFACTS FOR THE "EXTRATERRESTRIAL TREASURES" EXHIBIT ARE DAMAGED WHEN HE RETURNS.
LIKE HE'D EVEN NOTICE.
BELIEVE ME--
--THE MAN NOTICES EVERYTHING.

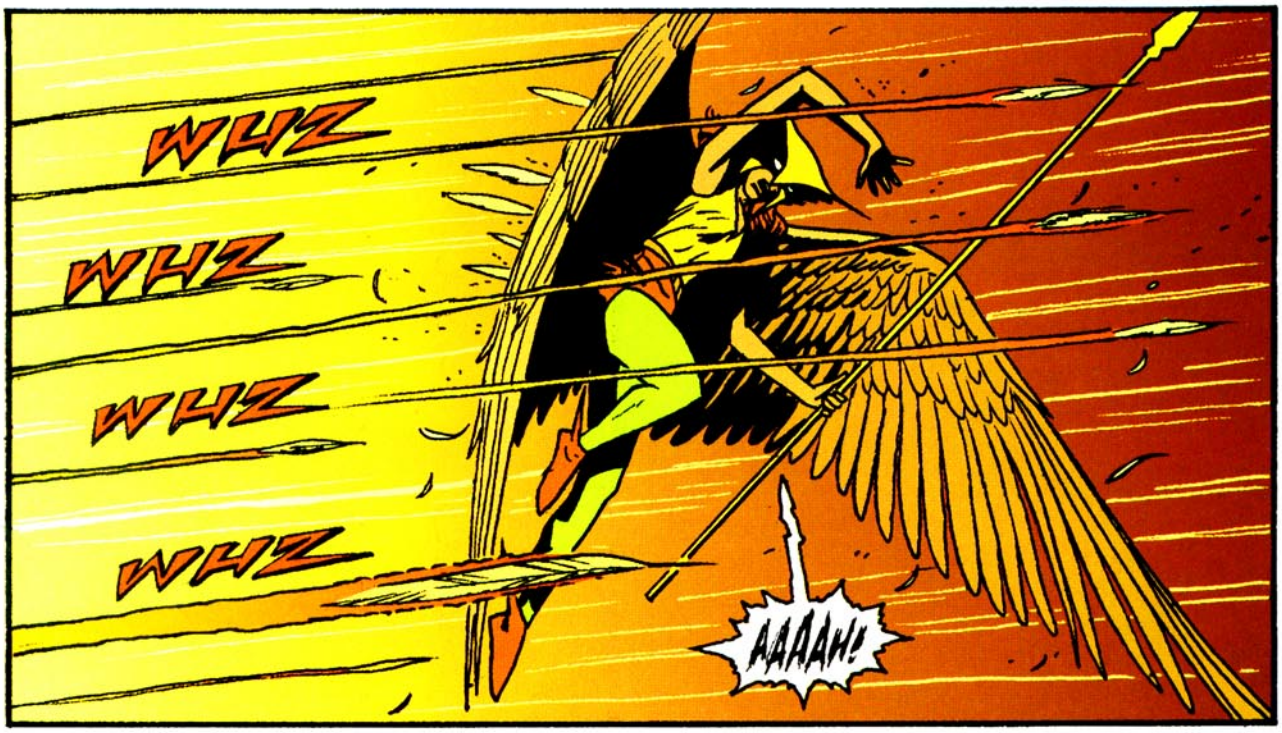
HEY, DON'T THAT INTERGALACTIC SIDESHOW OPEN NEXT WEEK?
THAT'S WHAT ALL THE ADS SAY.
SO WHERE THE HELL IS HE...?

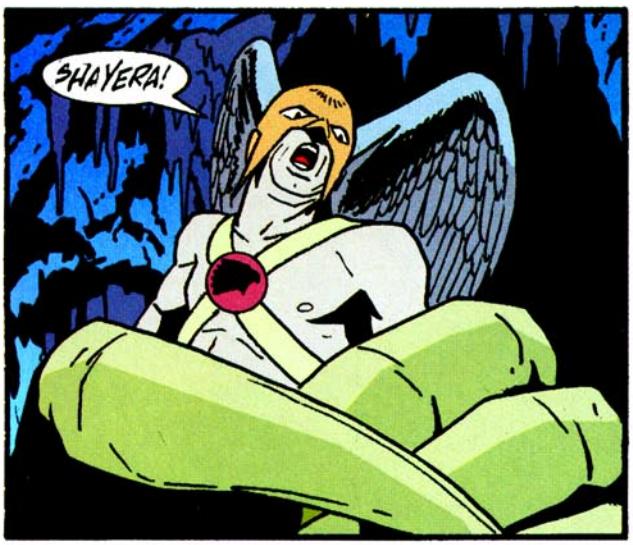
TIBET.

--LAY DOWN YOUR ARMS, LITTLE HATCHLING, AND THE LIFE YOU SAVE--

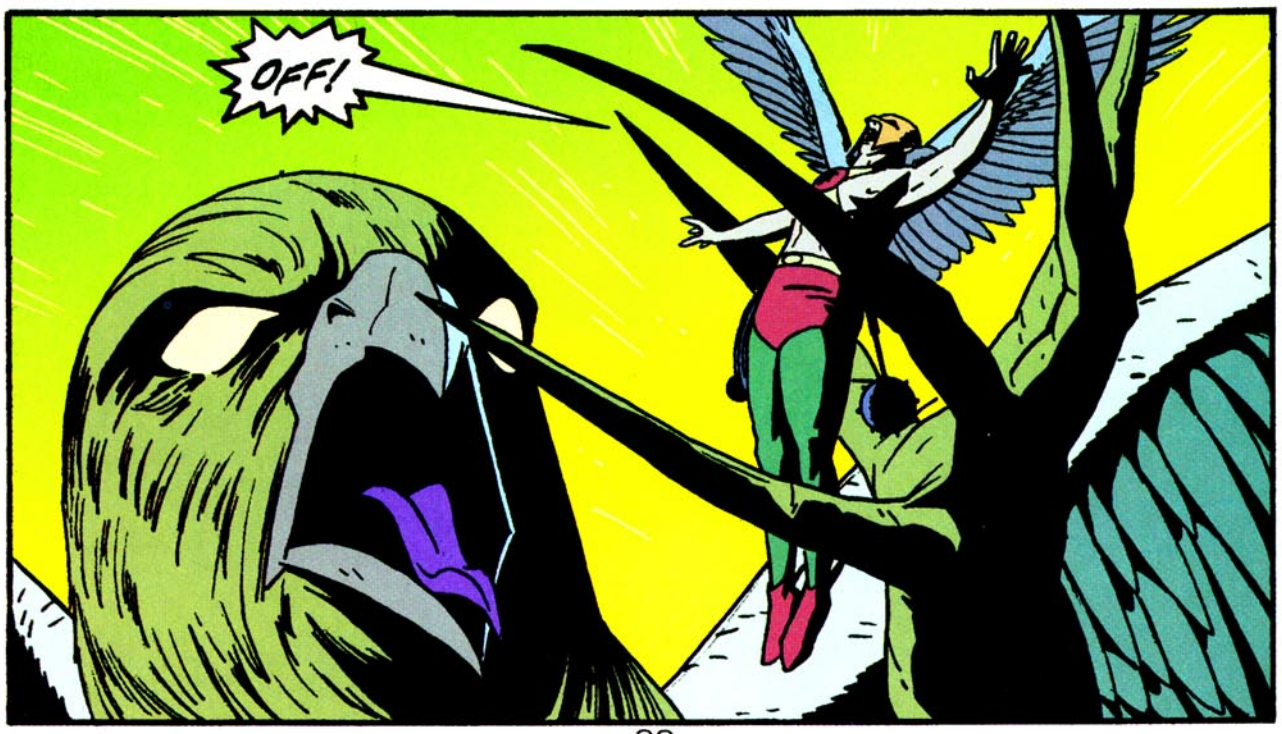
--MAY BE YOUR OWN!

NO, HAWKGIRL!
DON'T-- -uhmmh!- --DO IT!
SILENCE! NONE SHALL STAY MY HAND FROM SLAYING THE LAST SURVIVING SPAWN OF MY ACCURSED NEMESIS, HOL!
RELEASE HIM, DEMON!
NOW!
ONLY IN DEATH...
FFT
FFT
FFT
FFT


WHZ
WHZ
WHZ
WHZ
AAAAH!


SHAYERA!

Uhhnhh!


OFF!

IF YOU'VE HURT HER, *THASARO*, I SWEAR I'LL--

I'M FINE, KATAR. MY WINGS DEFLECTED MOST OF HIS *RAZOR-SHARP QUILLS*.

I *TOLD* YOU NOT TO OPEN THAT *URN* WE FOUND.

NOW WE'VE GOT TO GET THAT CREATURE BACK INSIDE, WHERE IT BELONGS!*

TRY IF YOU MUST. FAILURE WILL BE YOUR SOLE REWARD.

YOU FORGET YOUR OWN LEGEND, MONSTER. YOU WERE IMPRISONED ONCE.

SO YOU SHALL BE AGAIN!

THE ANNALS OF HISTORY MAY BE SCRAWLED BY THE HAND OF THE *VICTOR*, MORTAL--

--BUT THAT DOESN'T NECESSARILY MAKE THEM *TRUE*...

"ONCE REMOVED FROM THANAGAR, MY STRENGTH BEGAN TO EBB.
"THE FURTHER I WAS TAKEN, THE WEAKER I BECAME.
"BY THE TIME HOL HAD COMPLETED THIS PRISON, A GALAXY AWAY FROM MY HOMEWORLD, MY POWER. WAS BUT A SHADOW OF ITS FORMER MAJESTY.
"THIS GROWING FRAILTY, COMBINED WITH THE MYSTIC WARDS HE HAD PLACED THROUGHOUT THE CHAMBER, BOUND ME TO THIS URN...
"...OR SO HE THOUGHT.
"LITTLE DID THE OVERCONFIDENT FOOL REALIZE THAT DESPITE MY INFIRMITY, I WAS FAR FROM HELPLESS.
"WITH WHAT LITTLE MIGHT THAT REMAINED TO ME, I LASHED OUT AT YOUR GREAT 'HERO'...
"...AND SLEW HIM WHERE HE STOOD!"

OVER TIME, THE TIDES OF MY STRENGTH BEGAN TO FLOW ANEW.
AND SO YOU SEE, THOUGH IMPRISONED I HAVE BEEN, LO THESE COUNTLESS CENTURIES--
--POWERLESS I AM NOT.
TH-THE EXPEDITION TEAM...
THEY'RE BEING TRANSFORMED.
THE VERY FABRIC OF REALITY BENDS TO MY WILL!

ALL MORTAL FLESH AND BLOOD CALL ME "MASTER"!-

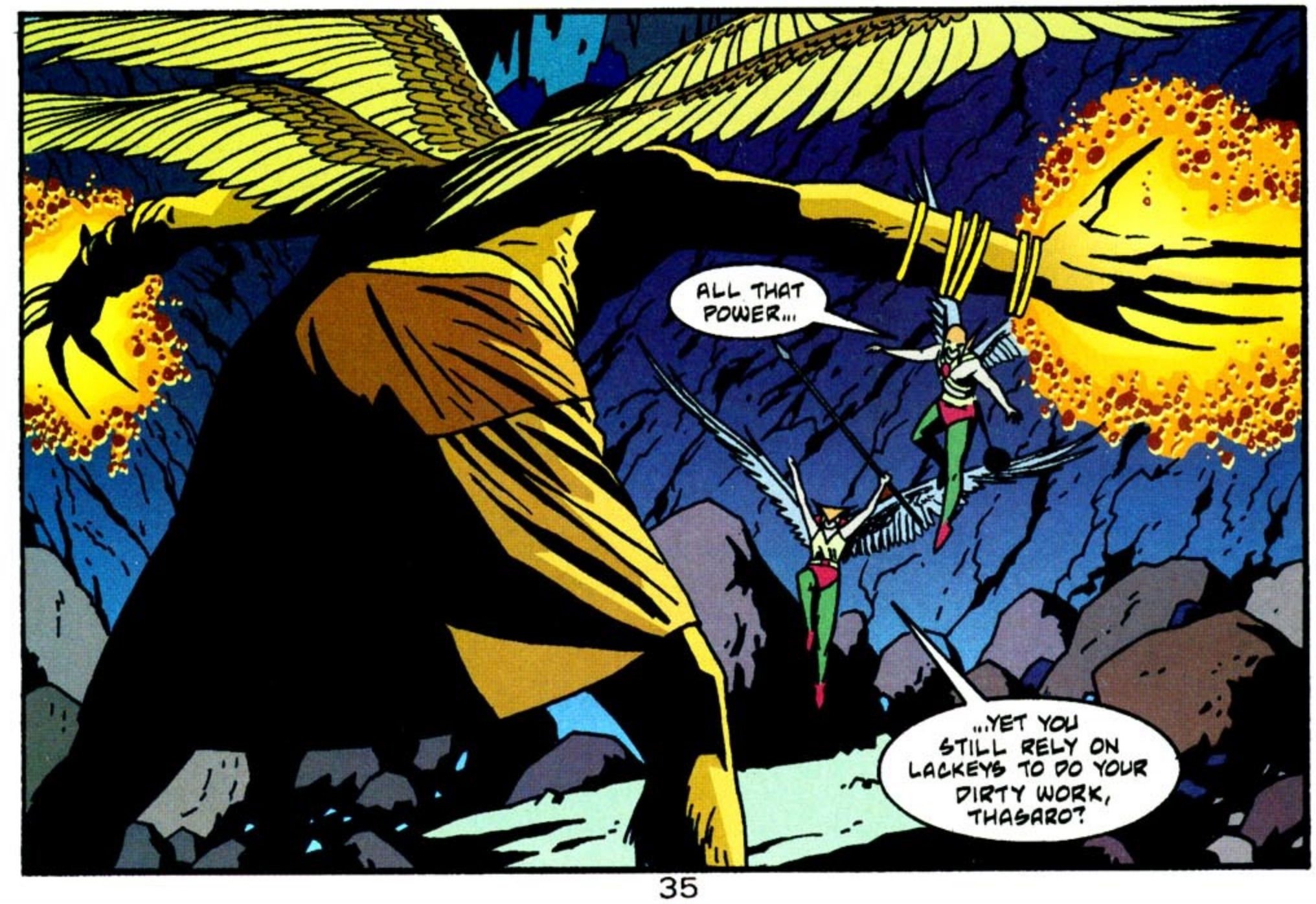
--AND SO SHALL YOU!

CAAA
AW!
TRY SUBDUING THEM, HAWKGIRL.

IF WE HURT THE DOCTORS' AVIAN FORMS--

FIP FIP FIP
KAWK!

--WE RISK HARMING THEIR HUMAN SELVES AS WELL!



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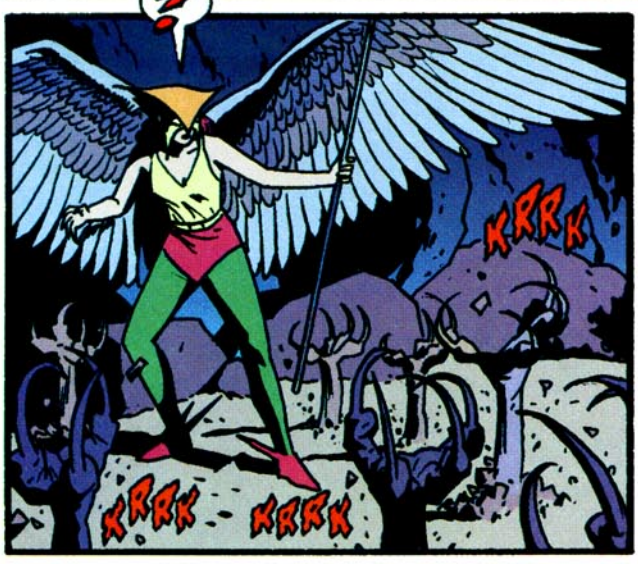
HARDLY.
BEHOLD...

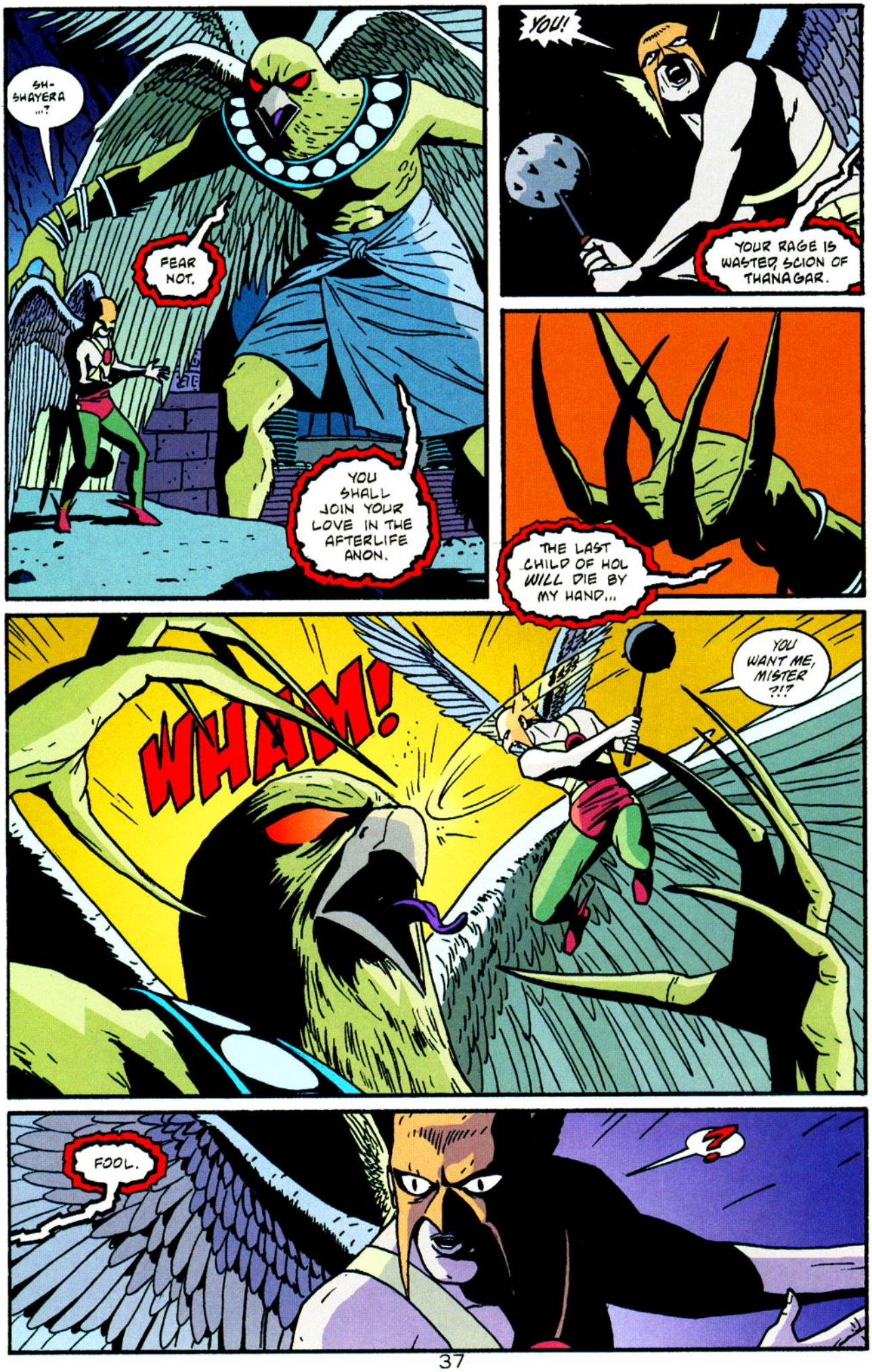

?
KRRK
KRRK
KRRK

HOLD ON, SHAY!
I'M COMING!

TAKE MY HAND! QUICKLY!
CLOSER, KATAR! CLOSER...

I'VE GOT YOU! JUST HOLD ON!
Mmf...!

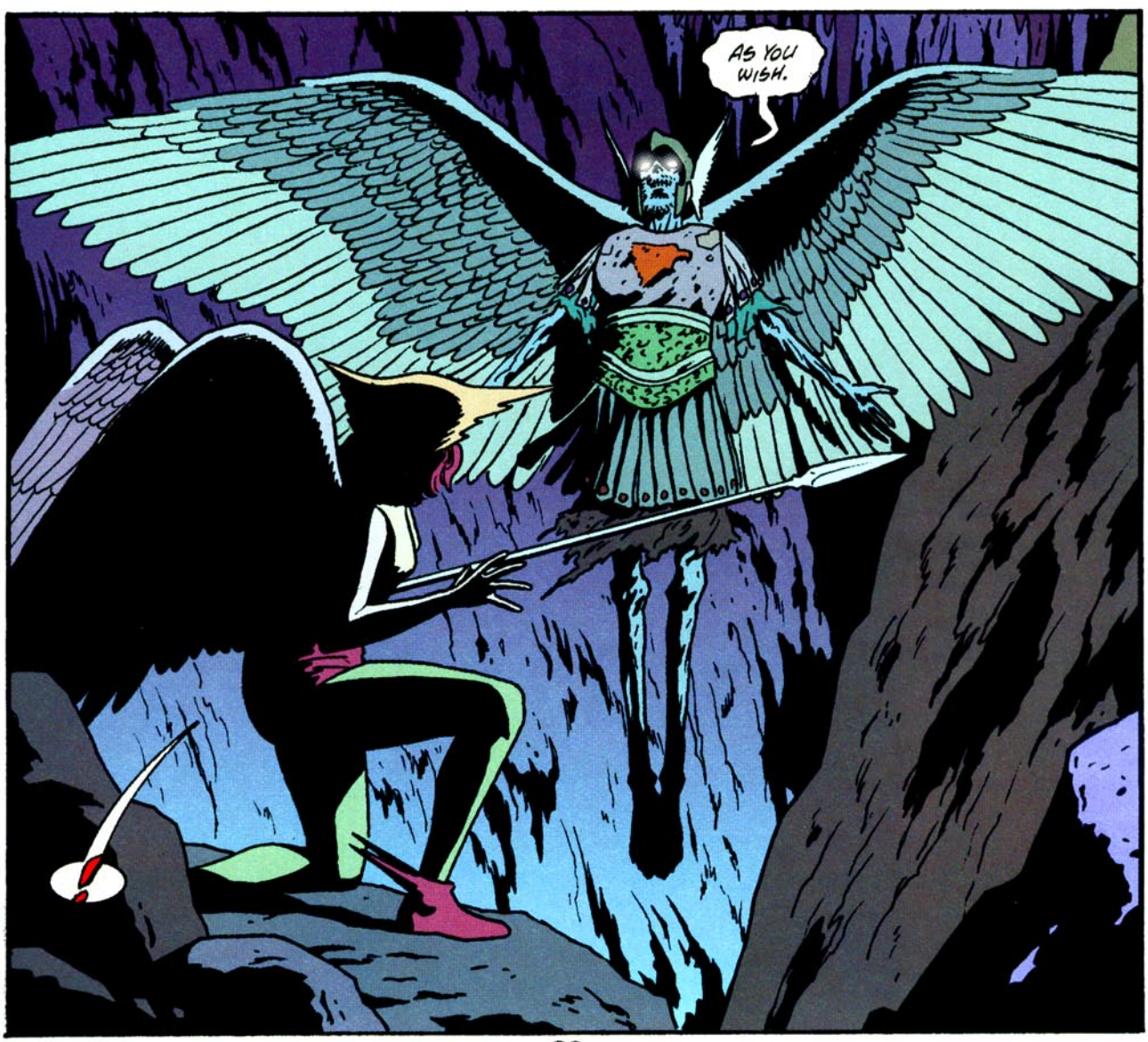
HAWKGIRL!!!

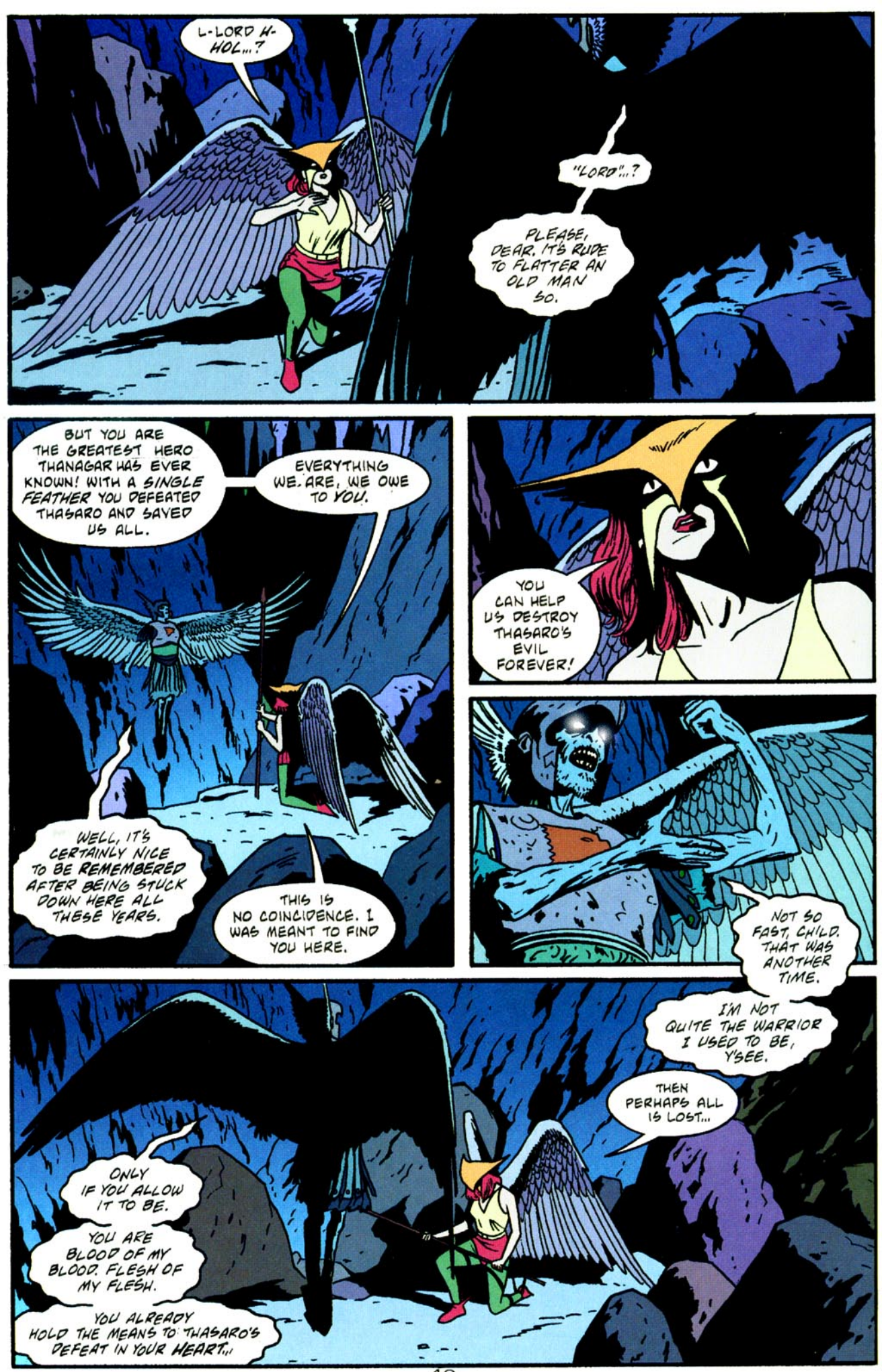

SH-SHAYERA ...?
FEAR NOT.
YOU SHALL JOIN YOUR LOVE IN THE AFTERLIFE ANON.
YOU!
YOUR RAGE IS WASTED, SCION OF THANAGAR.
THE LAST CHILD OF HOL WILL DIE BY MY HAND...
WHAM!
YOU WANT ME, MISTER ?!?
FOOL.

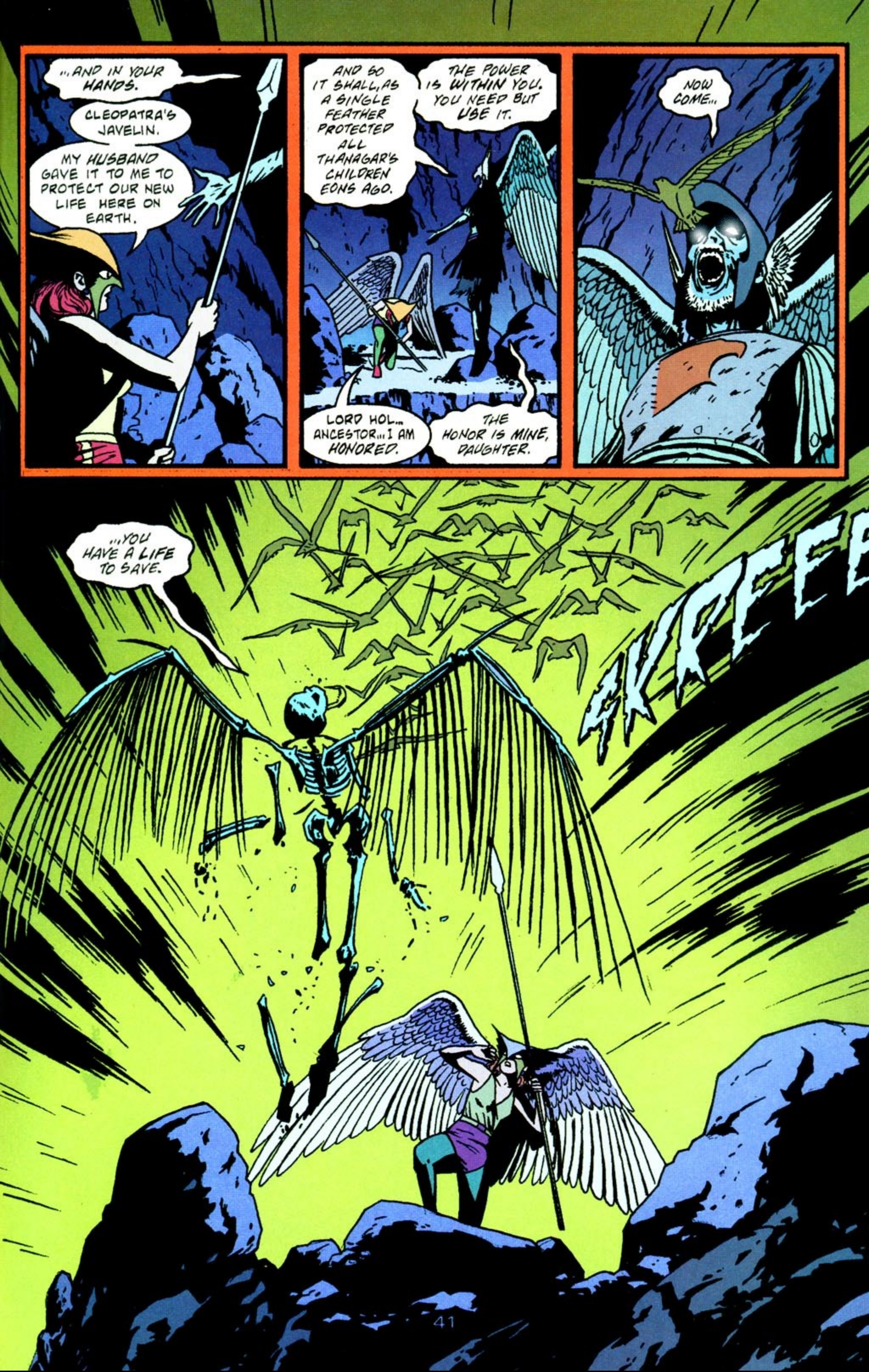
YOU MAY WEAR THE *RAIMENT* OF MY ANCIENT ENEMY--
WAK!
--BUT NARY A DROP OF HIS *BLOOD* COURSES THROUGH YOUR VEINS!
OWW!
KRUACH!
IF *I'M* NOT THE ONE THASARO'S AFTER--
--THEN THAT CAN ONLY MEAN...

Uhhhhh... ouch...

THAT THASARO. TALK ABOUT A ROTTEN EGG.
Huh? WHO SAID THAT? WHO'S THERE?
SHOW YOURSELF!


AS YOU WISH.


L-LORD H-HOL...?
"LORD"...?
PLEASE, DEAR. IT'S RUDE TO FLATTER AN OLD MAN SO.
BUT YOU ARE THE GREATEST HERO THANAGAR HAS EVER KNOWN! WITH A SINGLE FEATHER YOU DEFEATED THASARO AND SAVED US ALL.
EVERYTHING WE ARE, WE OWE TO YOU.
WELL, IT'S CERTAINLY NICE TO BE REMEMBERED AFTER BEING STUCK DOWN HERE ALL THESE YEARS.
THIS IS NO COINCIDENCE. I WAS MEANT TO FIND YOU HERE.
YOU CAN HELP US DESTROY THASARO'S EVIL FOREVER!
NOT SO FAST, CHILD. THAT WAS ANOTHER TIME.
I'M NOT QUITE THE WARRIOR I USED TO BE, Y'SEE.
THEN PERHAPS ALL IS LOST...
ONLY IF YOU ALLOW IT TO BE.
YOU ARE BLOOD OF MY BLOOD. FLESH OF MY FLESH.
YOU ALREADY HOLD THE MEANS TO THASARO'S DEFEAT IN YOUR HEART...



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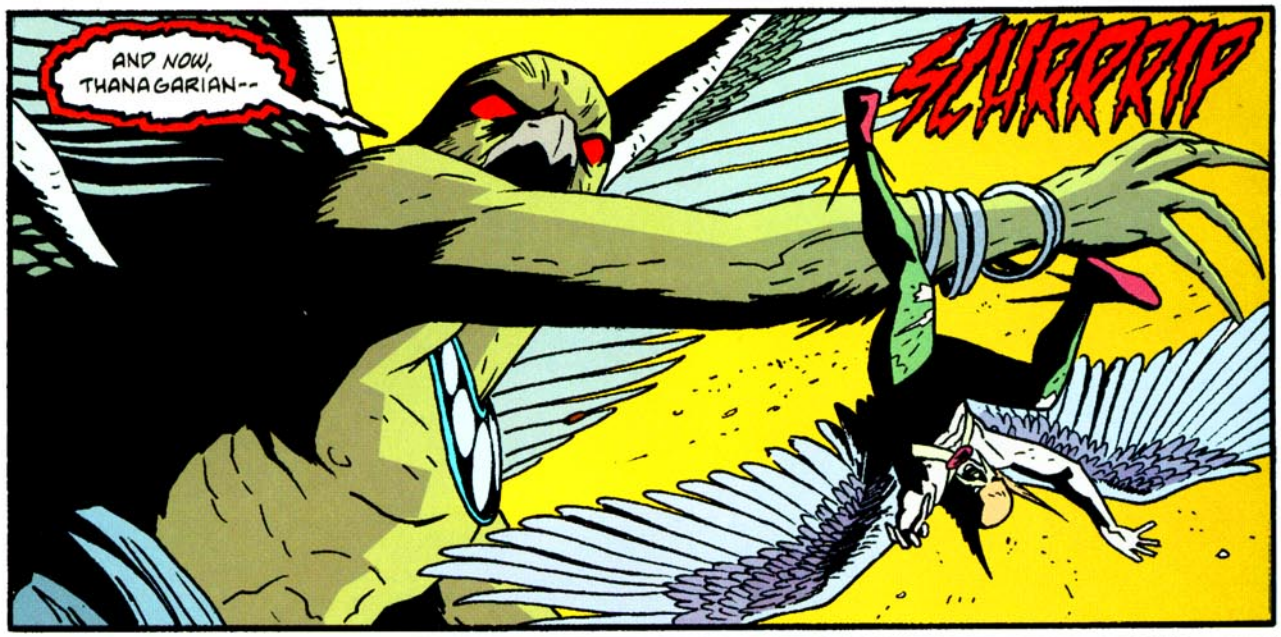
THE HOL BLOODLINE IS DEAD!
KRAK


AND NOW, THANAGARIAN--
SCHRRRIP

--SO ARE YOU!

WRONG, DEMON...
?!?

THE ONLY THING DYING THIS DAY--

--IS YOU!

SKREEEEEEE!

TH-THIS CANNOT BE! I D-DESTROYED YOU!

I DESTROYED A-ALL OF YOU...

GUESS WHAT?

YOU FAILED.

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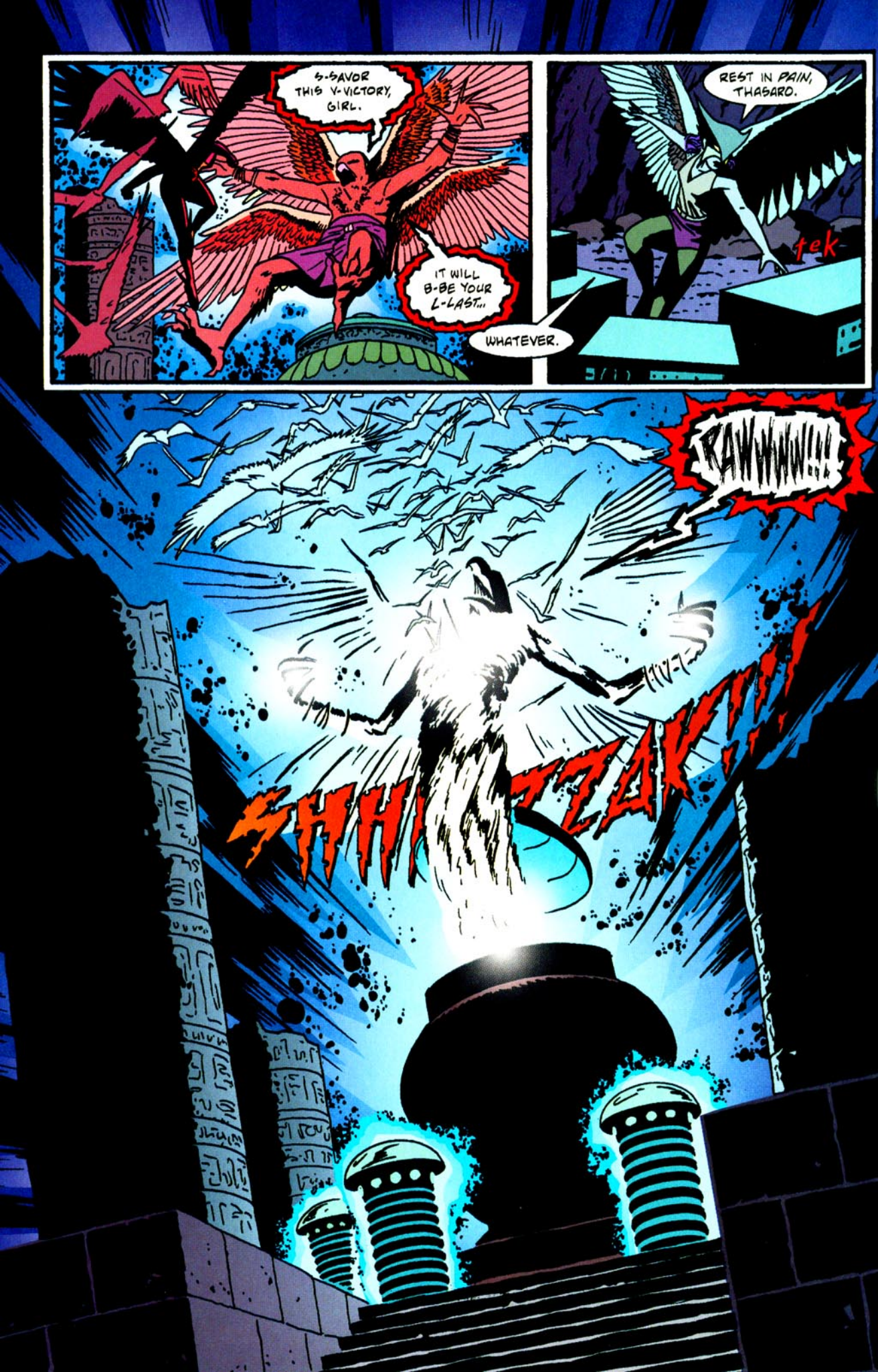
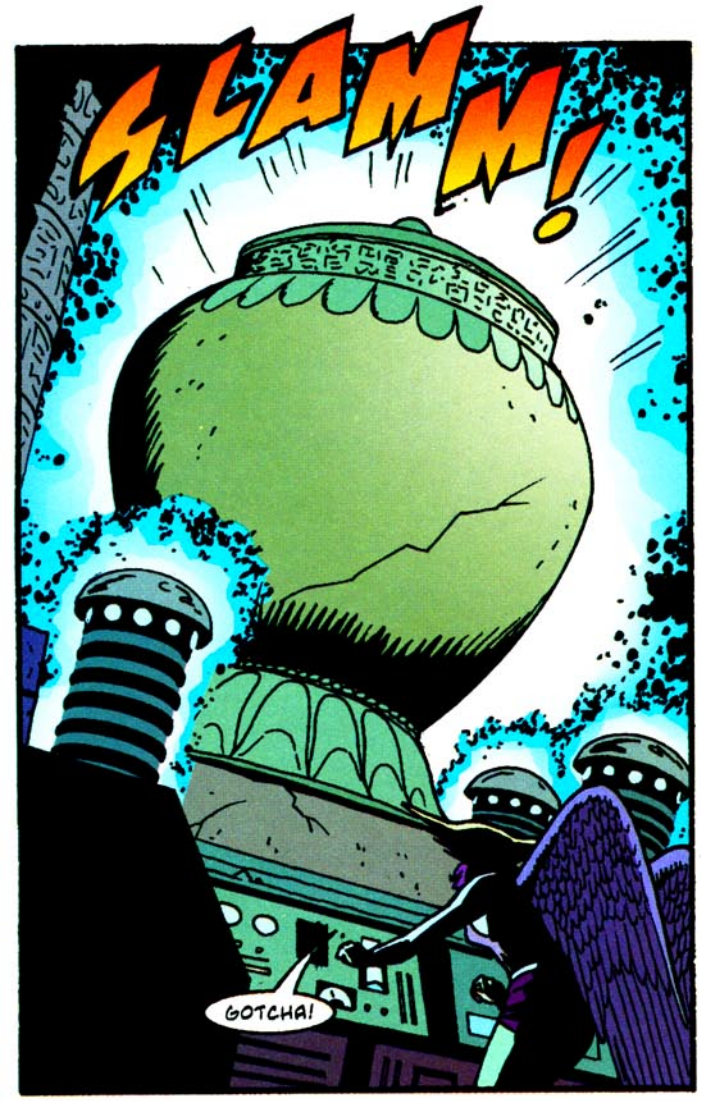

S-SAVOR THIS V-VICTORY, GIRL.
IT WILL B-BE YOUR L-LAST...
WHATEVER.
REST IN PAIN, THASARO.
tek
RAWHHWW!!!
SHHIZZAK!!!


SLAMM!
GOTCHA!

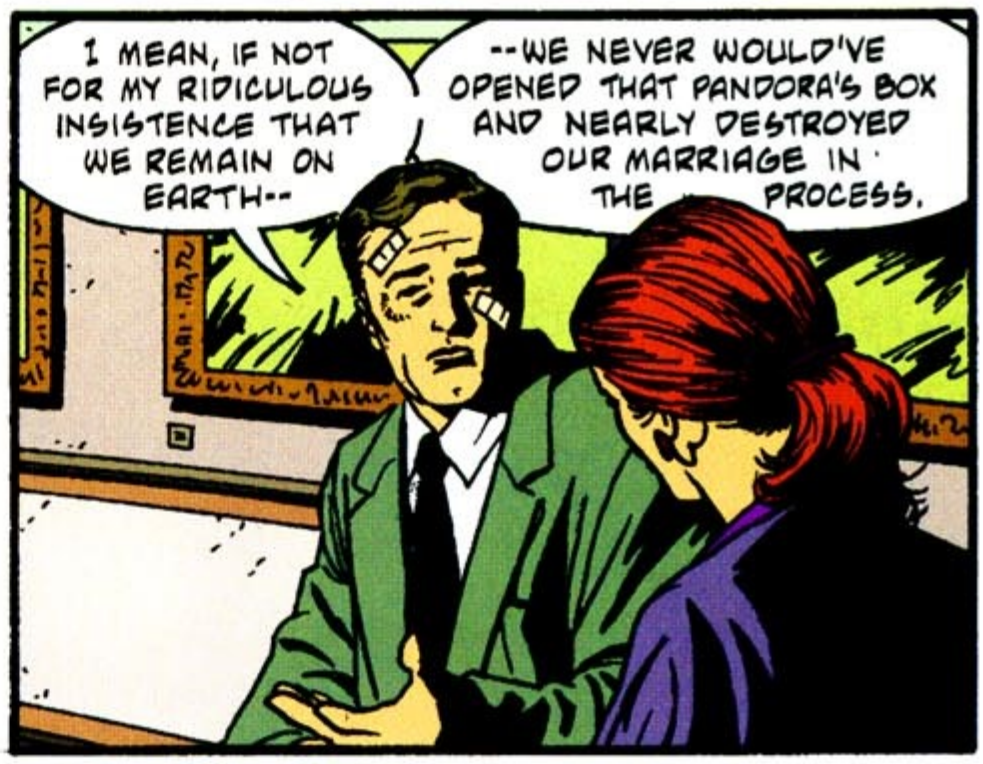
AND WITH THASARO IMPRISONED AGAIN, LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE'S REVERTING BACK TO NORMAL.

Uhhnh... IS IT ME, OR IS ANYONE ELSE CRAVING FIELD MOUSE?
OH MY GOD...

...HAWKMAN?
H-HE'S NOT MOVING...

KATAR? SWEETHEART...?
Uhhnhh... SH-SHAYERA?

Shhh. IT'S ALL RIGHT, HON.
IT'S ALL RIGHT...
Y-YOU... I-I...



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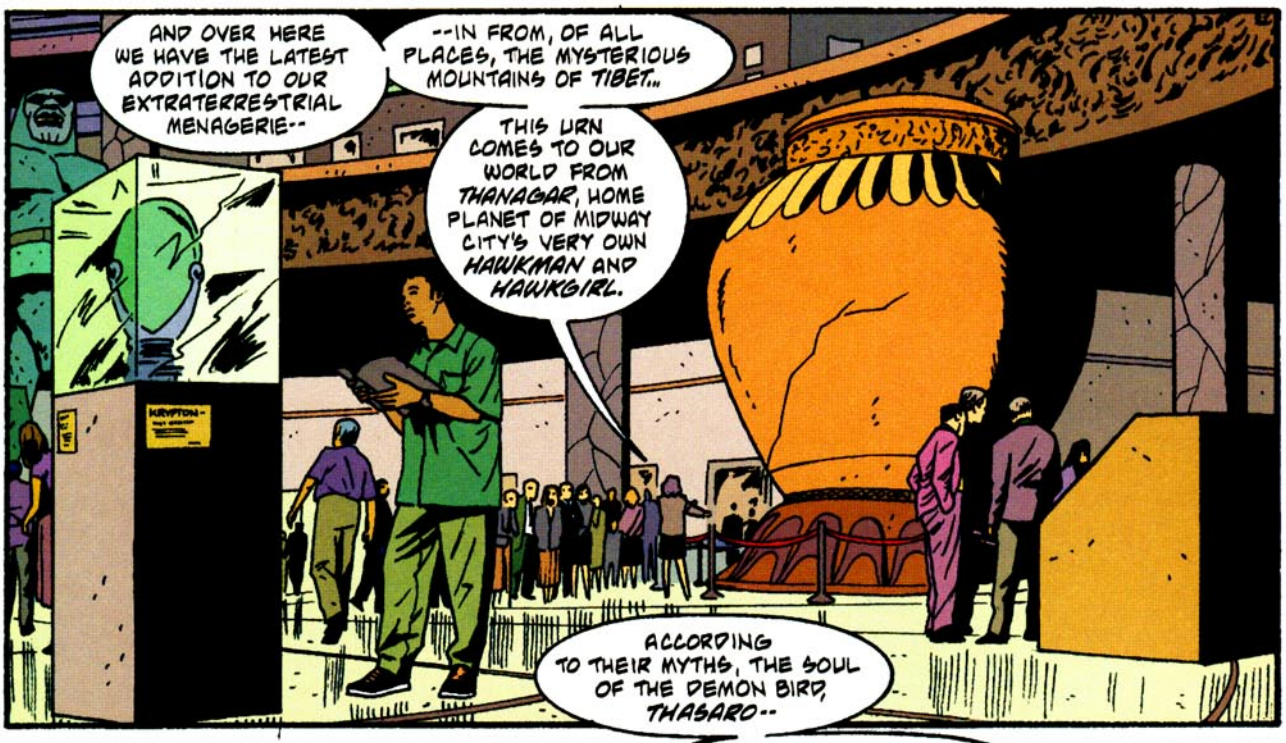
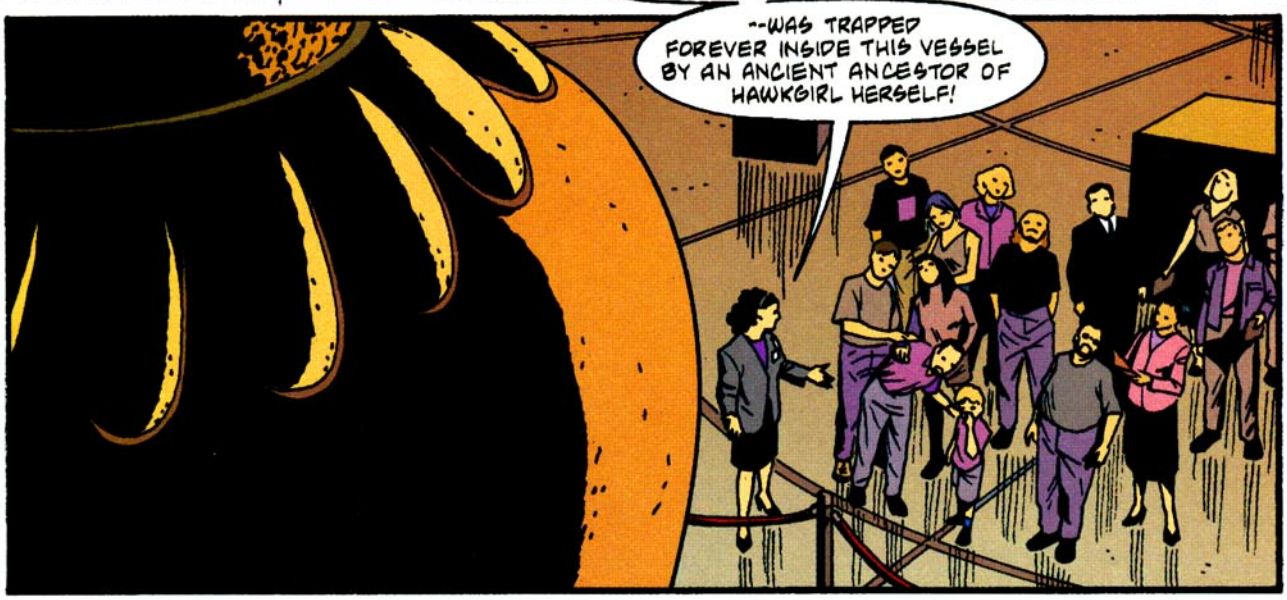

AND OVER HERE WE HAVE THE LATEST ADDITION TO OUR EXTRATERRESTRIAL MENAGERIE--
--IN FROM, OF ALL PLACES, THE MYSTERIOUS MOUNTAINS OF TIBET...
THIS URN COMES TO OUR WORLD FROM THANAGAR, HOME PLANET OF MIDWAY CITY'S VERY OWN HAWKMAN AND HAWKGIRL.
KRYPTON
ACCORDING TO THEIR MYTHS, THE SOUL OF THE DEMON BIRD, THASARO--


--WAS TRAPPED FOREVER INSIDE THIS VESSEL BY AN ANCIENT ANCESTOR OF HAWKGIRL HERSELF!

NOW, DON'T ANY OF YOU KIDS GET TOO CLOSE--
--THIS IS ONE GENIE WE DO NOT WANT LET OUT OF ITS BOTTLE!

AND NEXT IN OUR EXHIBIT, ALL THE WAY FROM OA, HOME OF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS, WE FIND...

NEXT

Heresy

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THE LEGEND TELLS OF A CHILD SO CORRUPT—SO PRIMORDIALLY EVIL—THAT HIS VERY EXISTENCE THREATENED TO END THE REIGN OF THE ANCIENT GODS.

ALL WOULD HAVE BEEN LOST THAT DAY, IF NOT FOR THE COURAGE OF A LONE MAN...

...the warrior named HOL.

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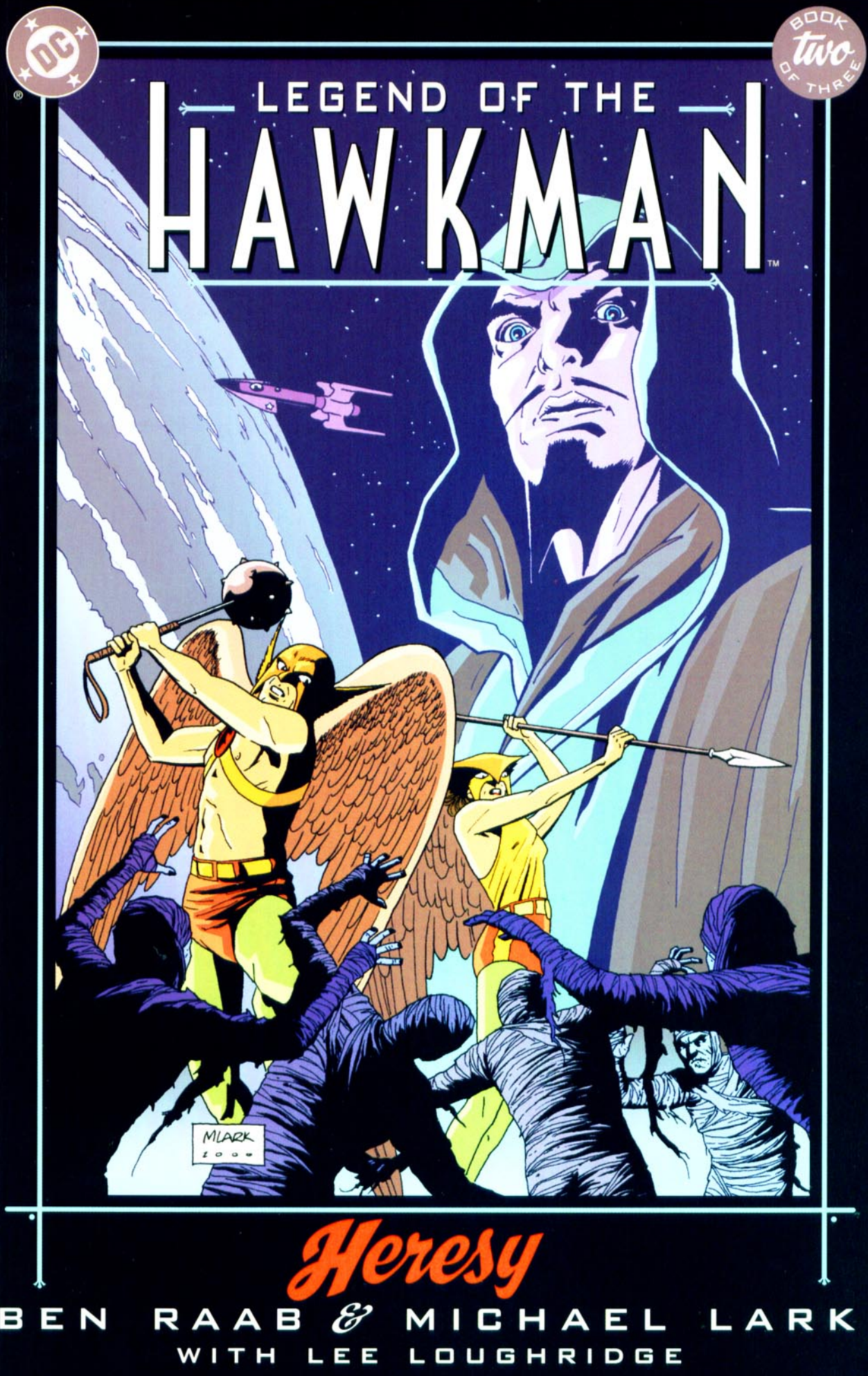
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BOOK two OF THREE
LEGEND OF THE
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Heresy
BEN RAAB & MICHAEL LARK
WITH LEE LOUGHRIDGE

LEGEND OF THE HAWKMAN™

Book Two of Three

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BEN RAAB

ARTIST

MICHAEL LARK

LETTERER

WILLIE SCHUBERT

COLORIST & SEPARATOR

LEE LOUGHRIDGE

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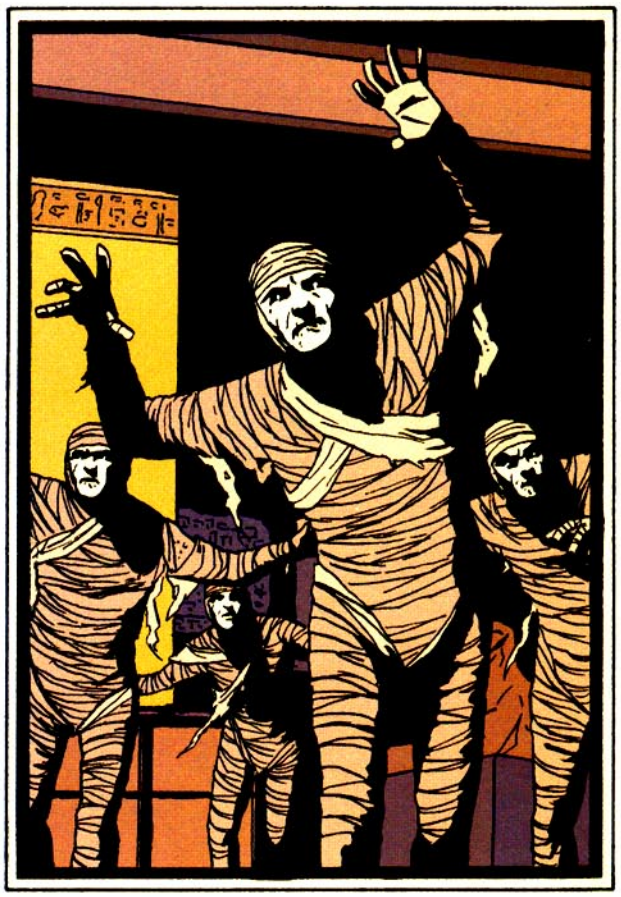
CHAPTER ONE



Heresy

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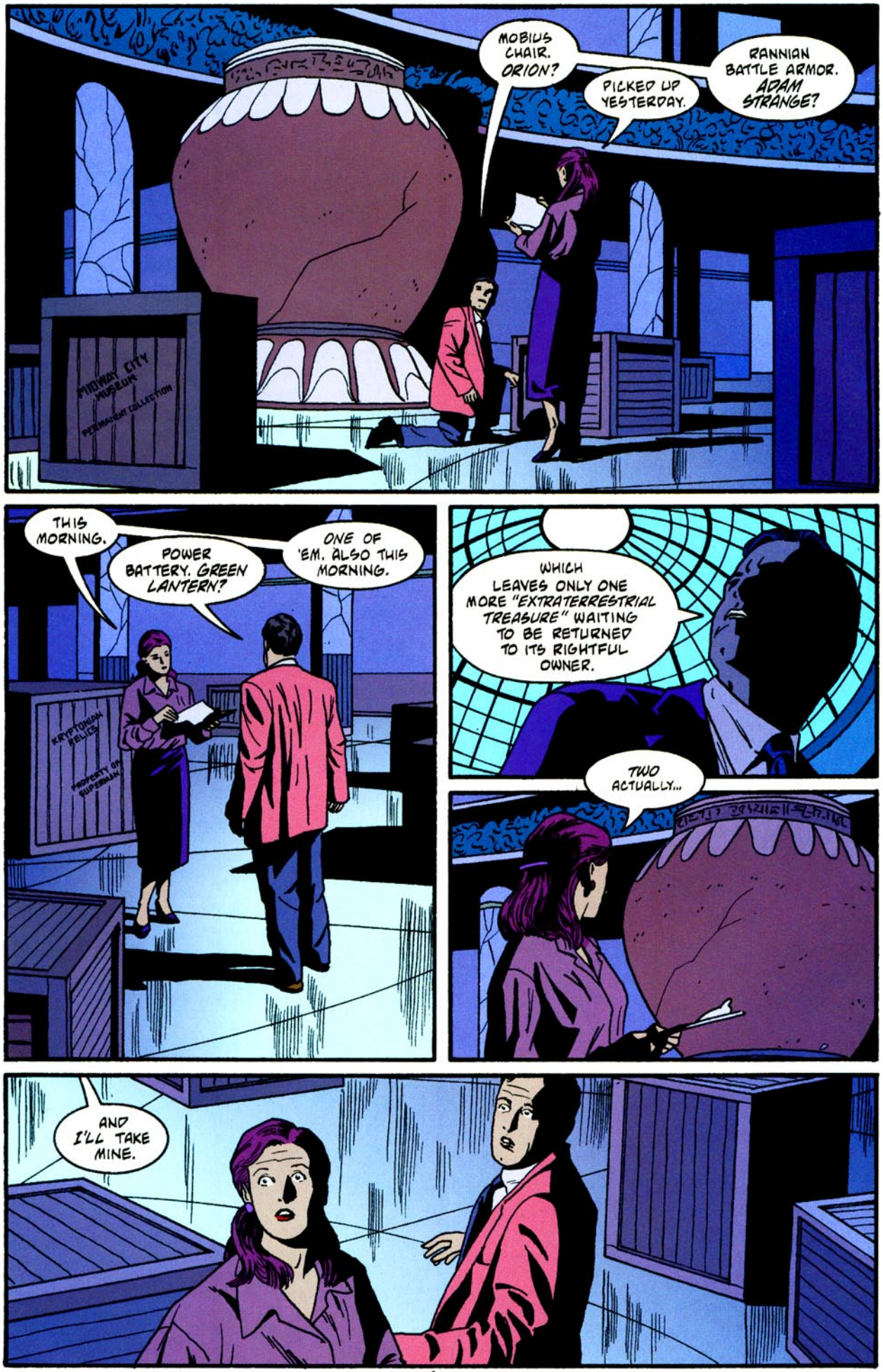
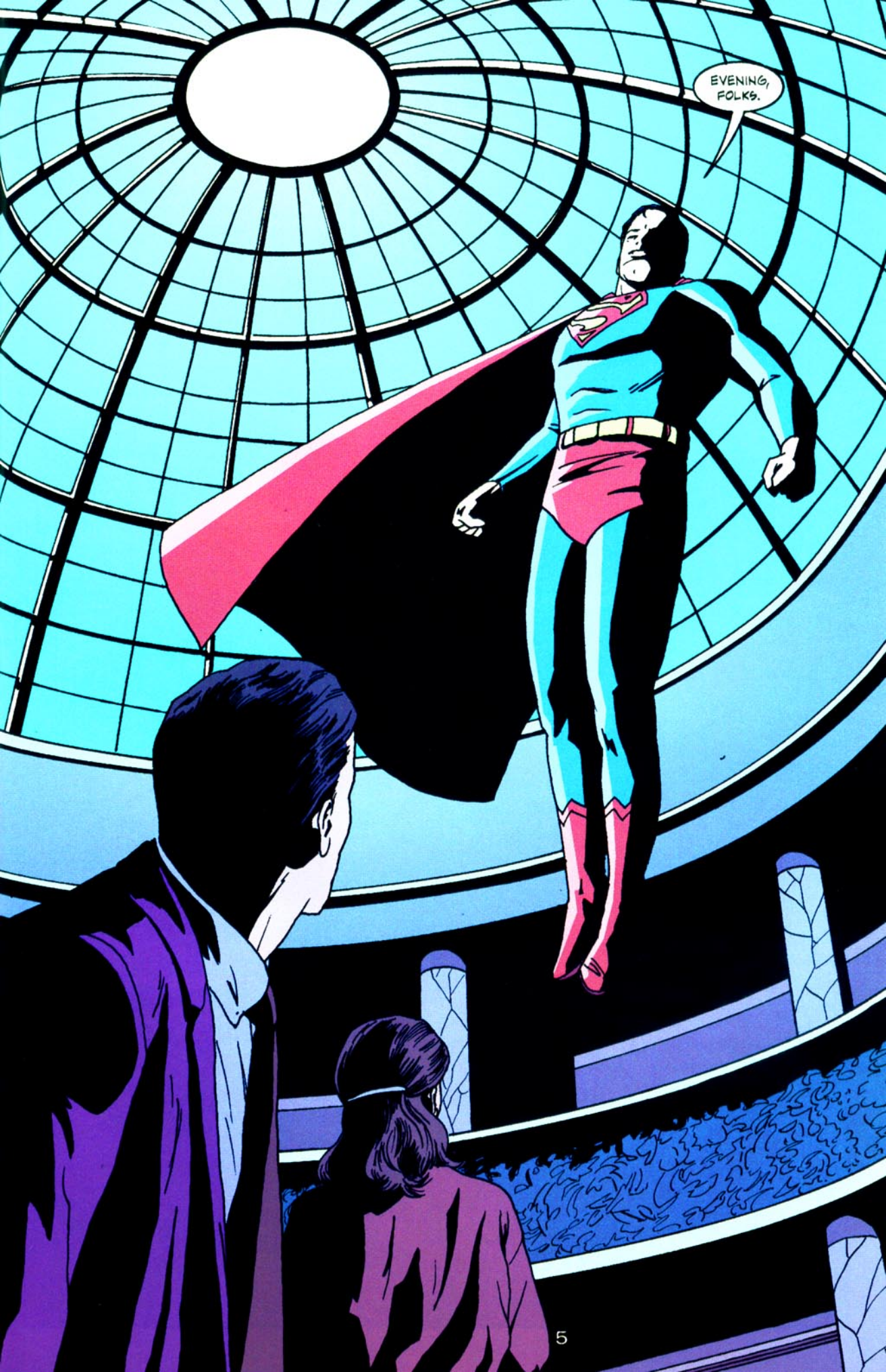
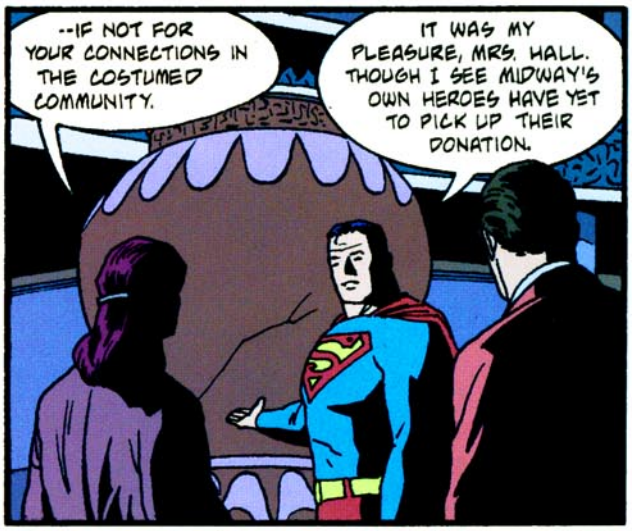
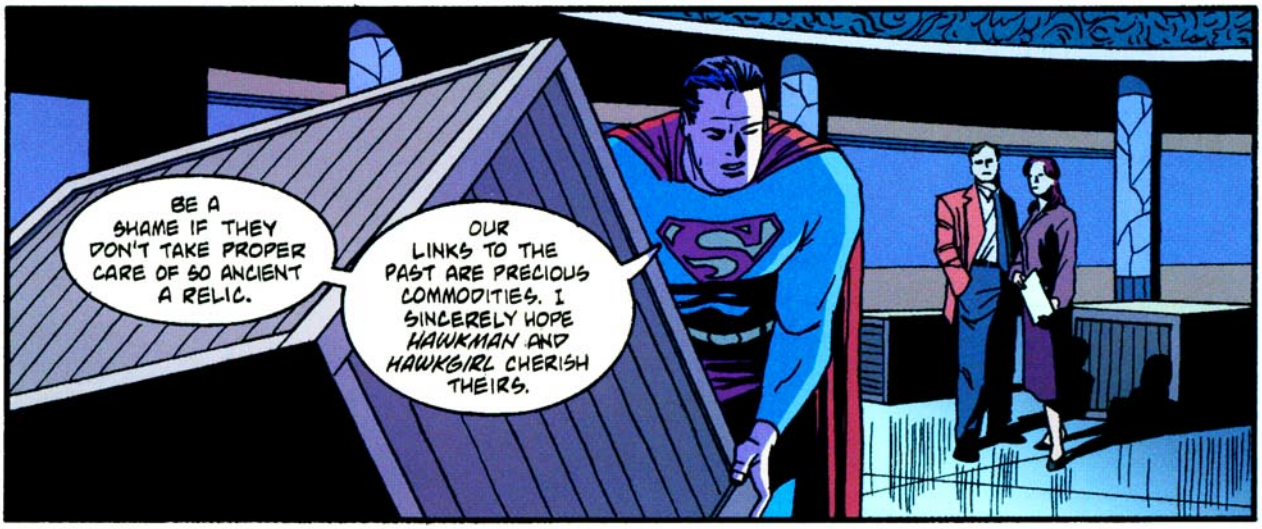
AIIIEEEE!!!
WHAT THE--?!?
WINSTON...?
C'MON!
HOLY.

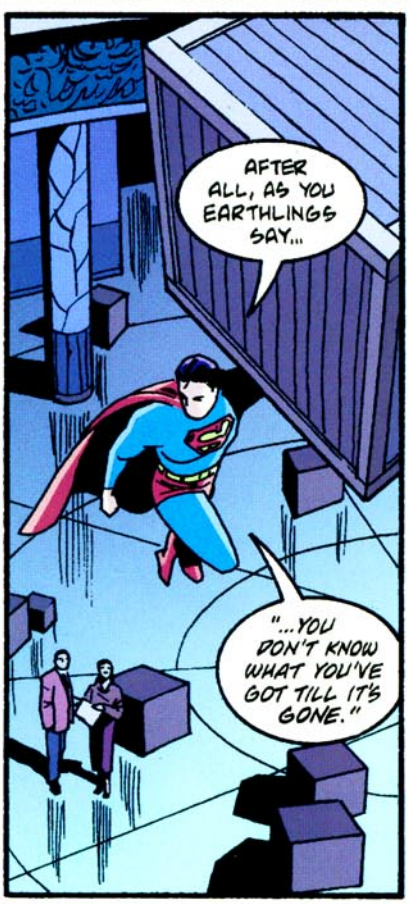

MOBIUS CHAIR. ORION?
PICKED UP YESTERDAY.
RANNIAN BATTLE ARMOR. ADAM STRANGE?
MIDWAY CITY MUSEUM
PERMANENT COLLECTION
THIS MORNING.
POWER BATTERY. GREEN LANTERN?
ONE OF 'EM. ALSO THIS MORNING.
KRYPTONIAN FELICS
PROPERTY OF SUPERMAN
WHICH LEAVES ONLY ONE MORE "EXTRATERRESTRIAL TREASURE" WAITING TO BE RETURNED TO ITS RIGHTFUL OWNER.
TWO ACTUALLY...
AND I'LL TAKE MINE.

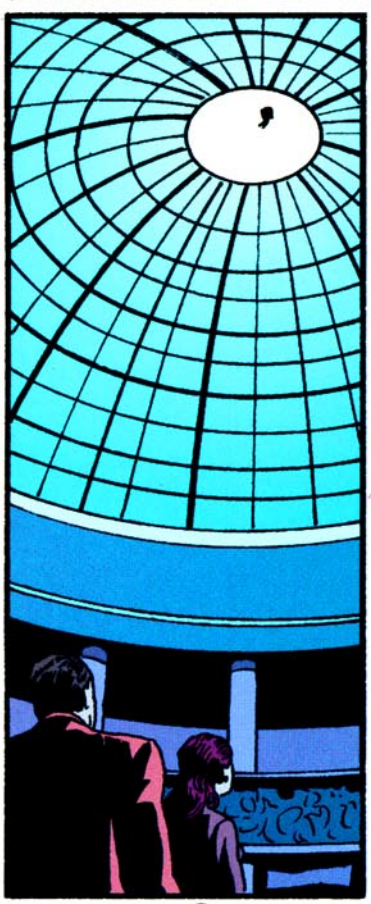

EVENING, FOLKS.

I TRUST THE EXHIBIT WENT WELL, MISTER HALL.
MOST POPULAR ONE SINCE I'VE BEEN CURATOR.
THANKS LARGELY TO YOU, SUPERMAN.
WE'D NEVER HAVE GOTTEN HALF THOSE CONTRIBUTIONS--


--IF NOT FOR YOUR CONNECTIONS IN THE COSTUMED COMMUNITY.
IT WAS MY PLEASURE, MRS. HALL. THOUGH I SEE MIDWAY'S OWN HEROES HAVE YET TO PICK UP THEIR DONATION.


BE A SHAME IF THEY DON'T TAKE PROPER CARE OF SO ANCIENT A RELIC.
OUR LINKS TO THE PAST ARE PRECIOUS COMMODITIES. I SINCERELY HOPE HAWKMAN AND HAWKGIRL CHERISH THEIRS.


AFTER ALL, AS YOU EARTHLINGS SAY...
"...YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'VE GOT TILL IT'S GONE."



AAAIIEEEEEE!
!?
THE EGYPTIAN WING...

WE'RE DEAD!
WE'RE DEAD!
WE'RE DEAD!

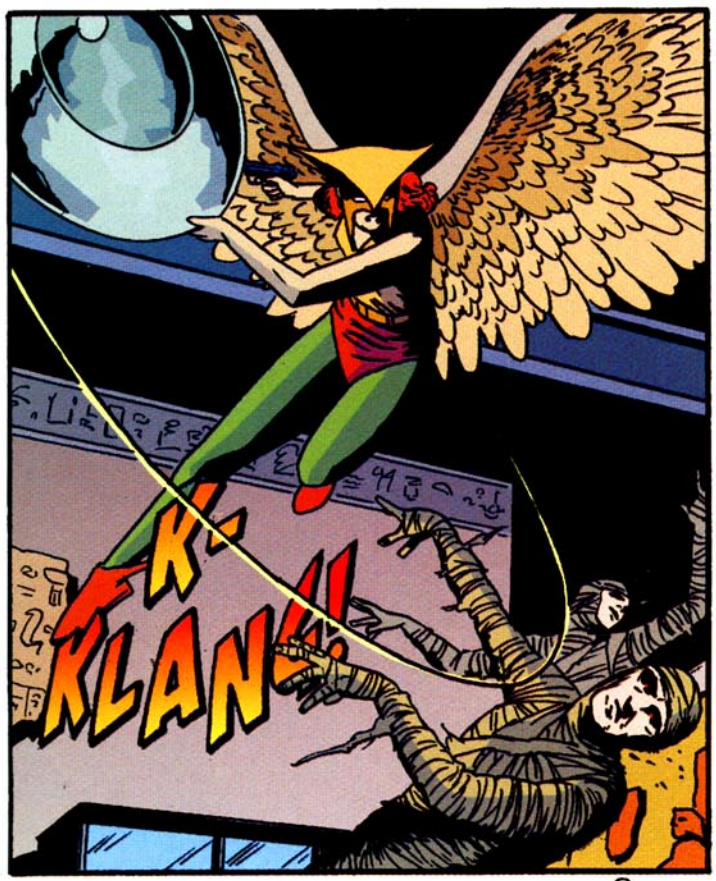
T-TOUGHEN UP, WALLIS!
WE'RE NOT D-DEAD...

YET.

RELAX, DOCTORS...

...WE'LL HANDLE THIS.

HANDS OFF, GHOULS!


K-KLANG!!

THUD
THUD

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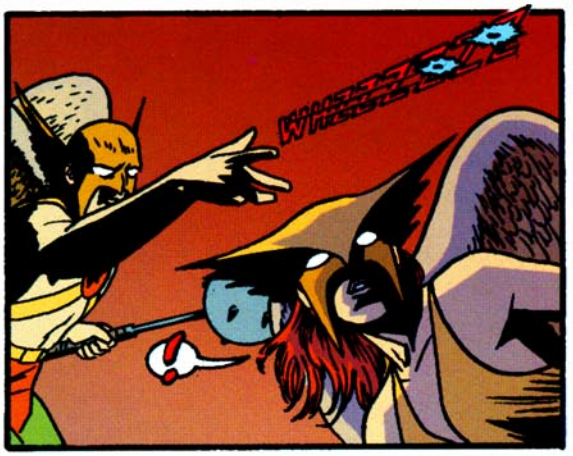
I GUESS THE EGYPTIANS WERE RIGHT. THERE REALLY IS LIFE AFTER DEATH.
I DON'T LIKE THIS, KATAR.
I FEEL... SOMETHING.

SINISTER FORCES ARE AT WORK HERE, AND I THINK WE BOTH KNOW WHO'S RESPONSIBLE!
SHAYERA!
DUCK!



SHUNK!

...I THINK MAYBE YOUR *SUPERSTITIONS* ARE COLORING YOUR JUDGMENT, HAWKGIRL.

I KNOW WHAT I FELT, KATAR. A *PRESENCE*. COLD. HATEFUL.

IT *FELT* LIKE *THASARO*...

MCPD

THASARO'S TRAPPED INSIDE THAT URN. YOU RETURNED THE BEAST TO ITS ETERNAL PRISON YOURSELF.*

THERE MUST BE ANOTHER, MORE *LOGICAL* EXPLANATION.

COULD BE *INTERGANG*.

*AS SEEN IN ISSUE ONE.

THEY'VE BEEN CAUSING QUITE A STIR DOWNTOWN LATELY, TRYING TO EXPAND THEIR TURF OUTSIDE METROPOLIS.

MAYBE *THEY'RE* BEHIND THIS.

WANTED

EDWARD "EDDIE THE LOWLIFE" BRUBAKER

THEORIES BOTH, BUT NO HARD EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT EITHER.

I KNOW *ONE* WAY TO *TEST* THAT.

THE URN OF THASARO...? BACK TO THANAGAR...?

PREPOSTEROUS! MADNESS! YOU'LL INVITE DEATH UPON US ALL!
KRANDOR VAT...AS HIGH MOR OF THANAGAR, SURELY YOU REALIZE THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS MOMENTOUS DISCOVERY.
THE URN IS PROOF OF OUR PEOPLE'S MYTHICAL PAST. AN INCONTROVERTIBLE CONFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH!
IT BELONGS ON THANAGAR!

OUR FAITH TELLS US THE TREACHEROUS DEMON, THASARO, WAS BANISHED FROM OUR WORLD BY HEAVENLY DECREE, SHAYERA HOL.
IF THE GODS SAW FIT FOR THE TERRANS TO BEAR THE BURDEN OF HIS CORRUPTIVE PRESENCE...? SO BE IT.
WHO ARE WE TO CHALLENGE THEM...?

THE GODS BE DAMNED!
REAL THREATS OR IMAGINED, THIS DEMON IS OUR CURSE. THE PEOPLE OF EARTH SHOULD NOT HAVE TO SUFFER IT.

...
WE WILL BRING THE MATTER BEFORE COUNCIL.

THE RETURN OF THASARO'S URN CAN ONLY SERVE TO *FORTIFY* THE SPIRITUAL UNITY OF OUR PEOPLE.

AS *SUPREME HOLY MINISTER* OF THANAGAR... KEEPER OF THE ETERNAL FLAME... I ASK YOU, MY BROTHERS--

--WHERE'S THE *HARM* IN THAT?

A *PECULIAR* SENTIMENT FOR OUR MOST VENERABLE SPIRITUAL LEADER TO HARBOR, CONSIDERING THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

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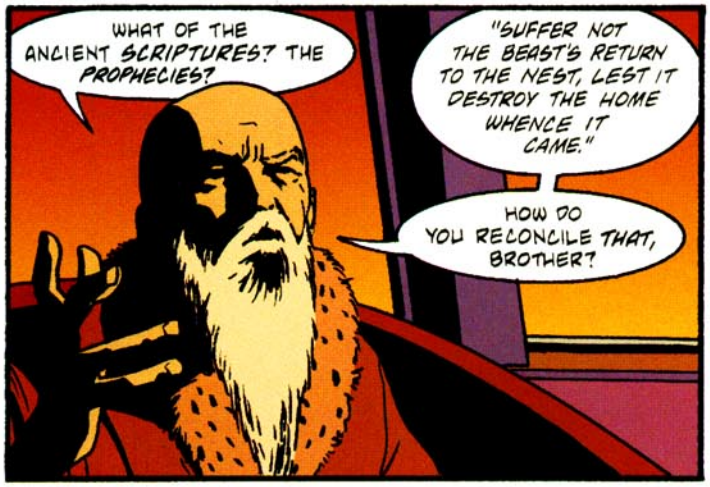
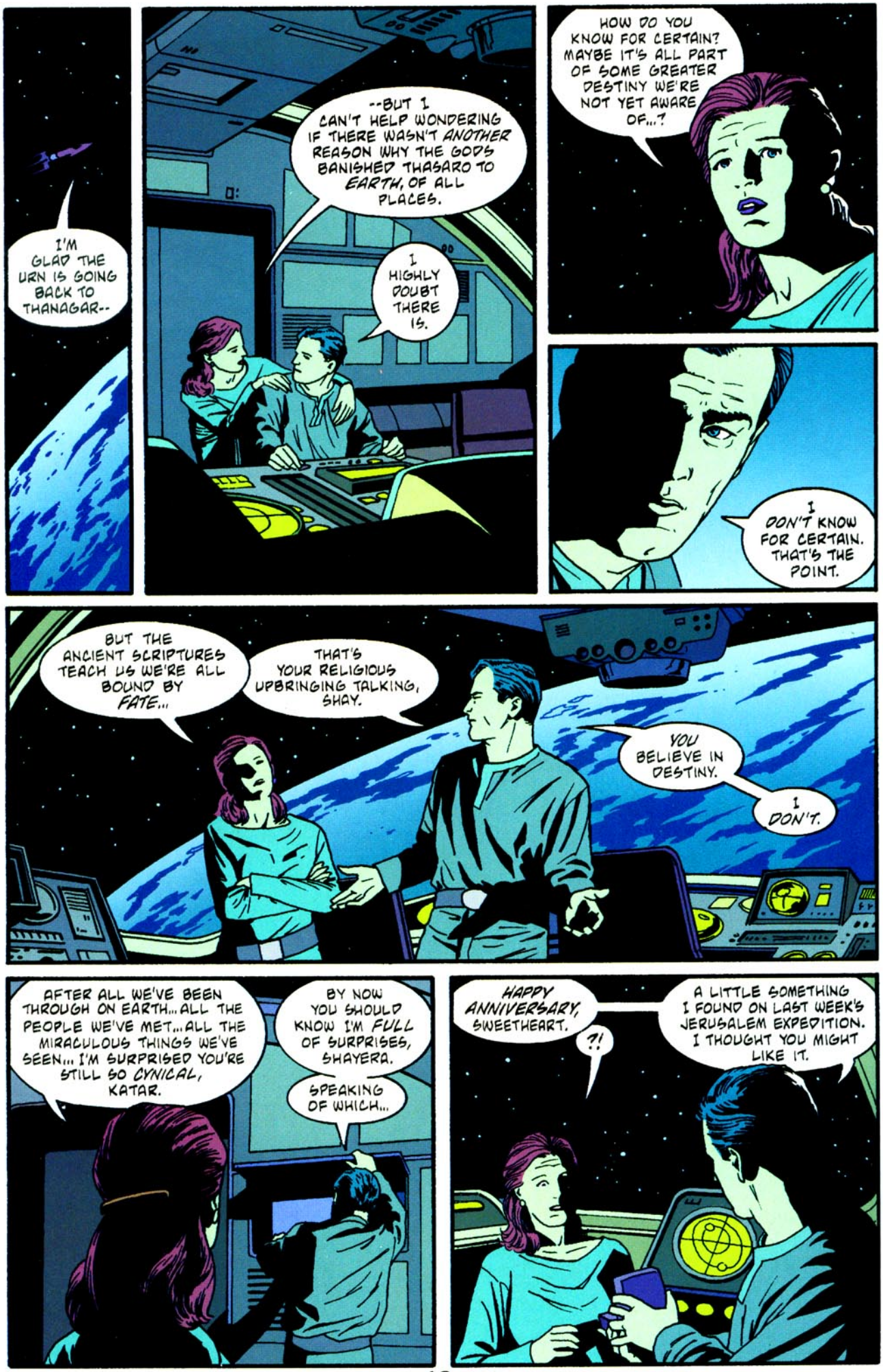

WHAT OF THE ANCIENT SCRIPTURES? THE PROPHECIES?
"SUFFER NOT THE BEAST'S RETURN TO THE NEST, LEST IT DESTROY THE HOME WHENCE IT CAME."
HOW DO YOU RECONCILE THAT, BROTHER?

BY MY FAITH, DEAR KRANDOR.
I DO NOT FEAR THE DARKNESS. NOR SHOULD ANY OF YOU.

...
THEN WHAT SAY YOU, BRAVE COUNCIL-MEN?

THEN IT'S DECIDED. A SECURITY FORCE WILL BE DISPATCHED ON THE MORROW.
MAY HEAVEN HELP US ALL...

HEAVEN, INDEED...


I'M GLAD THE URN IS GOING BACK TO THANAGAR--
--BUT I CAN'T HELP WONDERING IF THERE WASN'T ANOTHER REASON WHY THE GODS BANISHED THASARO TO EARTH, OF ALL PLACES.
I HIGHLY DOUBT THERE IS.
HOW DO YOU KNOW FOR CERTAIN? MAYBE IT'S ALL PART OF SOME GREATER DESTINY WE'RE NOT YET AWARE OF...?
I DON'T KNOW FOR CERTAIN. THAT'S THE POINT.
BUT THE ANCIENT SCRIPTURES TEACH US WE'RE ALL BOUND BY FATE...
THAT'S YOUR RELIGIOUS UPBRINGING TALKING, SHAY.
YOU BELIEVE IN DESTINY.
I DON'T.
AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH ON EARTH... ALL THE PEOPLE WE'VE MET... ALL THE MIRACULOUS THINGS WE'VE SEEN... I'M SURPRISED YOU'RE STILL SO CYNICAL, KATAR.
BY NOW YOU SHOULD KNOW I'M FULL OF SURPRISES, SHAYERA.
SPEAKING OF WHICH...
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, SWEETHEART.
?!
A LITTLE SOMETHING I FOUND ON LAST WEEK'S JERUSALEM EXPEDITION. I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE IT.

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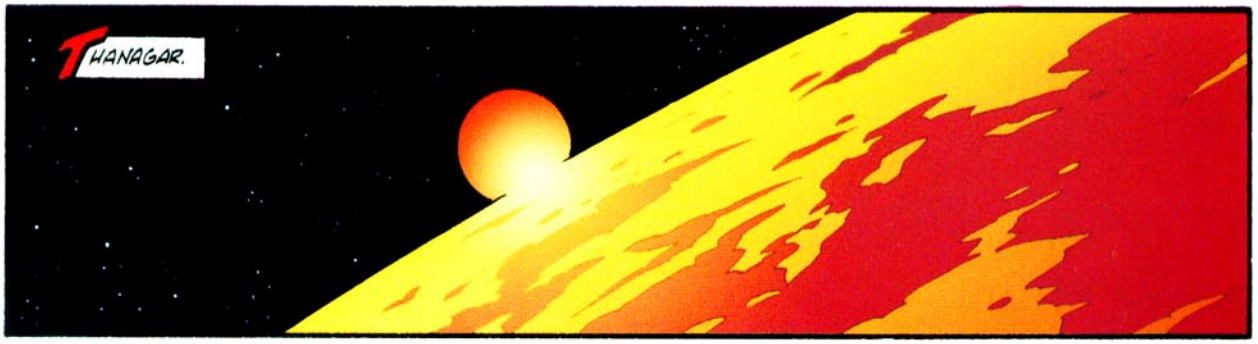
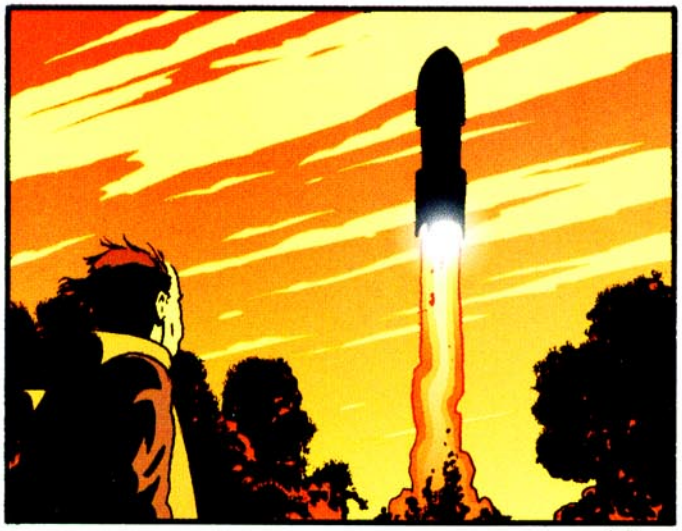

THANAGAR.

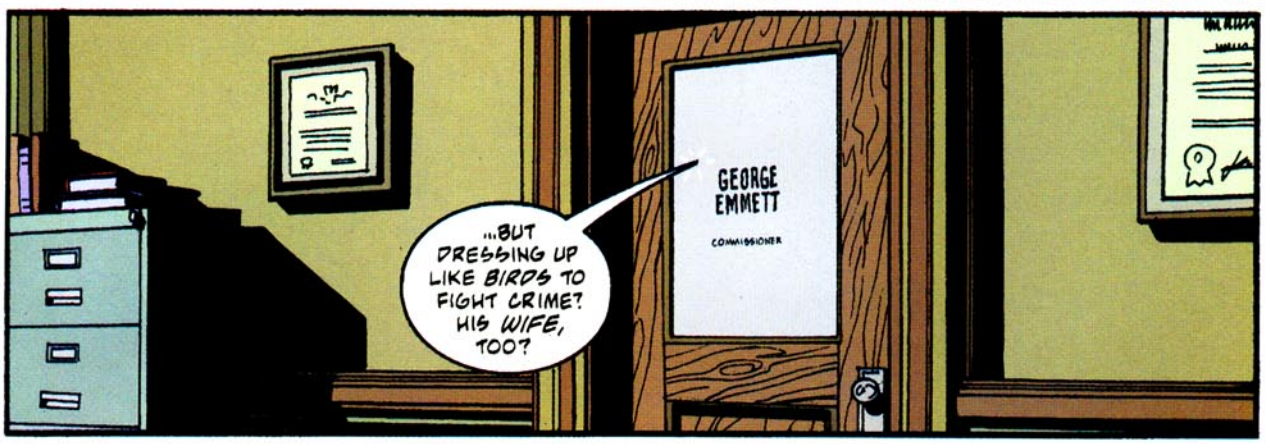
...NOT YOUR STANDARD RETRIEVAL MISSION, GENTLEMEN.
HIGH MOR VAT WANTS THIS ALL VERY *HUSH-HUSH*. EVEN I DON'T KNOW THE SPECIFICS OF IT.

YOU'RE TO RENDEZVOUS WITH OFFICERS KATAR AND SHAYERA HOL ON EARTH. THEY'LL FILL YOU IN FROM THERE.
BEYOND THAT, YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS MINE.

GOOD LUCK.
THANK YOU, SIR!

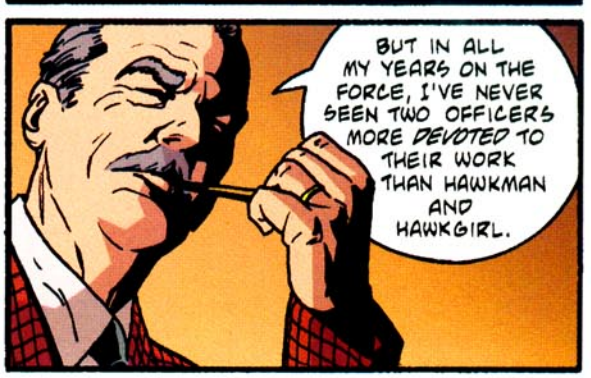


...I MEAN, BATMAN I GET. THE GUY'S OBVIOUSLY GOT ISSUES...


...BUT DRESSING UP LIKE BIRDS TO FIGHT CRIME? HIS WIFE, TOO?
GEORGE EMMETT
COMMISSIONER

THAT'S A LITTLE KOOKY, YA ASK ME.
HATE TO ADMIT IT, COMMISH, BUT COLE HERE'S GOT A POINT.

BELIEVE ME, DETECTIVE SIMMONS... I FELT EXACTLY AS YOU AND DETECTIVE COLE WHEN I FIRST MET MIDWAY'S RESIDENT ALIENS.


BUT IN ALL MY YEARS ON THE FORCE, I'VE NEVER SEEN TWO OFFICERS MORE DEVOTED TO THEIR WORK THAN HAWKMAN AND HAWKGIRL.

"HOWEVER GREAT THE THREAT...
BI-STATE TUN
"HOWEVER STRANGE THE SITUATION...
"HOWEVER BIZARRE THE FOE...
"...THE CITIZENS OF MIDWAY CITY SLEEP SOUNDER FOR THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THOSE TWO ARE ON THE CASE."

...AND LORD KNOWS, SO DO I.

YEAH, WELL... I STILL SAY THEY'RE KOOKS!

VERY ELOQUENTLY PUT, DETECTIVE...

...THOUGH I THINK THE BATMAN MAKES US LOOK DOWNRIGHT NORMAL.
WHAT THE-- ?!?
HOW DID YOU-- ?!?

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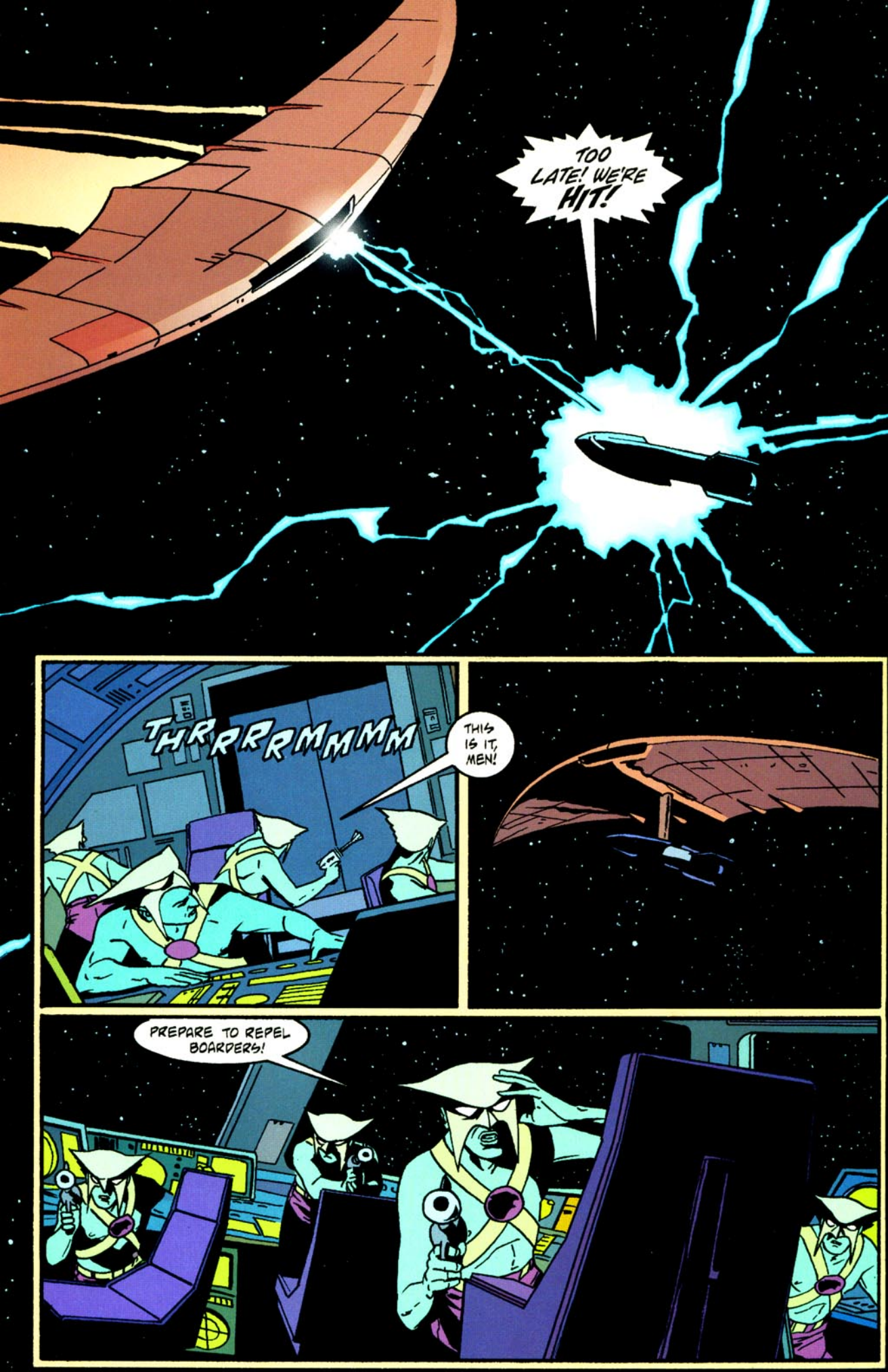
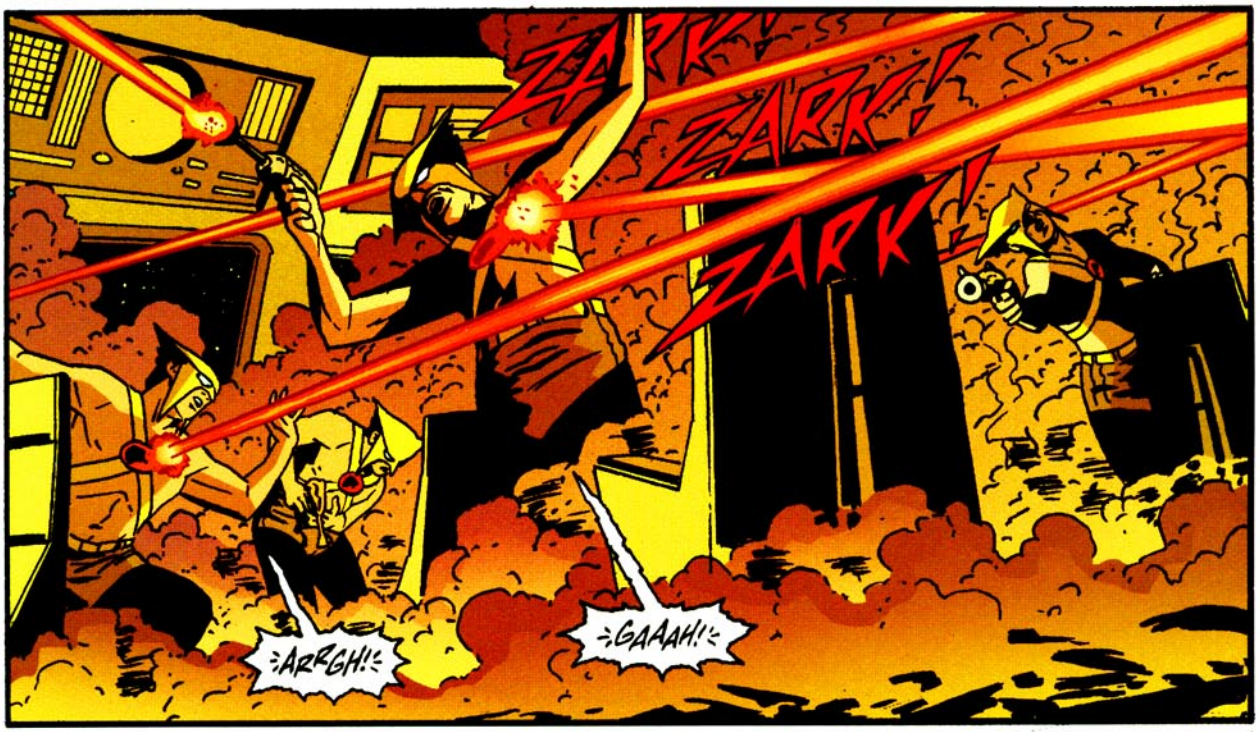
STEADY AS SHE GOES, LIEUTENANT.
AYE, CAPTAIN.
UH, SIR... WE'VE GOT AN UNIDENTIFIED SHIP OFF OUR STARBOARD BOW...AND CLOSING FAST!
HAIL THEM.
I DID! NO RESPONSE.
SIR! THEY'VE GOT US LOCKED ON TARGET!
RAISE AFT DEFLECTORS! POWER THE WEAPONS! EVASIVE MANEUVERS!
GO!


TOO LATE! WE'RE HIT!
THRRRRMMMM
THIS IS IT, MEN!
PREPARE TO REPEL BOARDERS!

BOOM!


ZARK!
ZARK!
ZARK!
ARRGH!
GAAAH!

CHAPTER TWO

Heresy

CLAP CLAP

CLAP CLAP
WOO HOO!
WAY TO GO, HAWKMAN!
MARRY ME, HAWKGIRL!
SORRY, BOYS...

...I'M TAKEN.

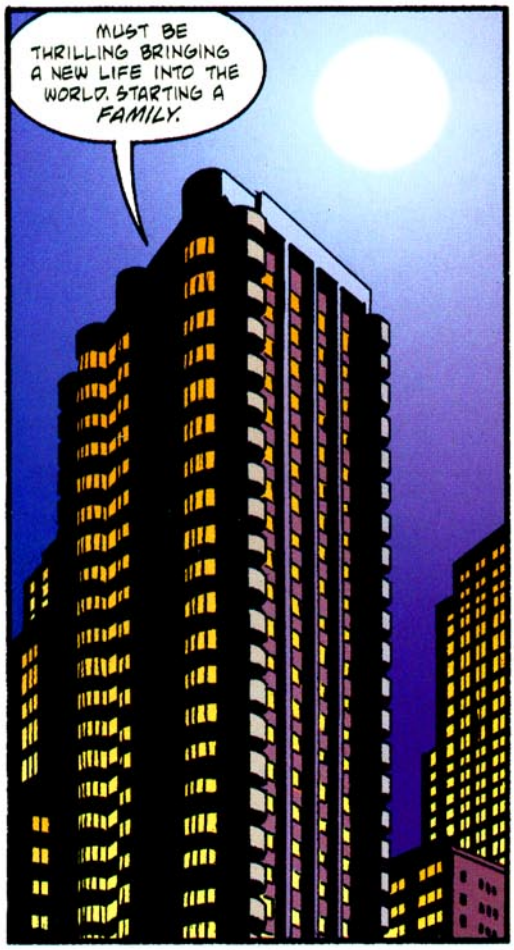
THIS OUGHT TO SEND A MESSAGE TO YOUR INTERGANG CRONIES.
MIDWAY CITY IS OFF LIMITS!

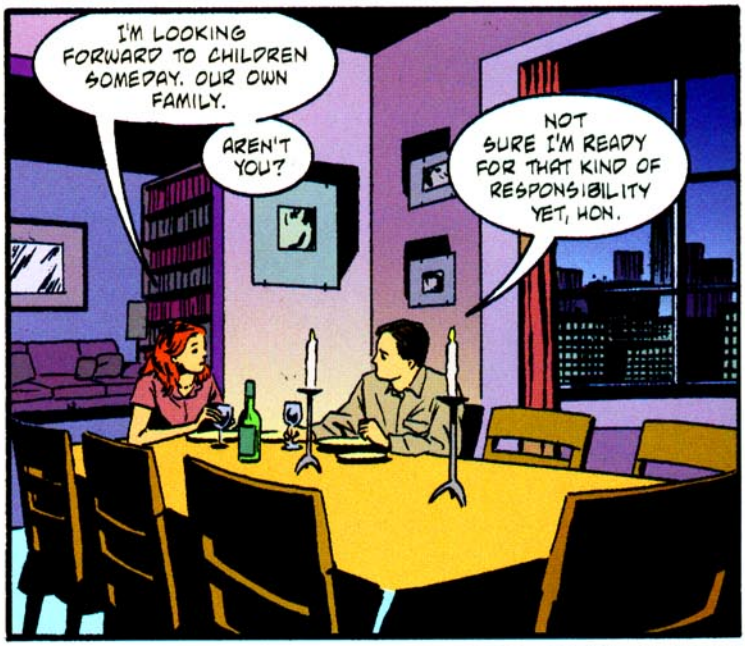
HAWKMAN, IF I MAY HAVE A WORD WITH YOU AND HAWKGIRL IN PRIVATE...?
SLAM
RIGHT AWAY, COMMISSIONER.

*&%$#@! BOID-MAN...

SOMETHING WRONG, COMMISSIONER...?
WELL, Y'SEE... IT'S THE DAMNEDEST THING...
MARJORIE'S PREGNANT.
THAT'S WONDERFUL! OH, CONGRATULATIONS!
YES, WELL... WE'RE--uhhhh!-- VERY EXCITED.
Um... I... uhhh... STILL NEED TO BREATHE, HAWKGIRL.
BUT WHAT WOULD REALLY MAKE THE MRS. AND ME EVEN HAPPIER IS IF YOU'D BOTH AGREE TO BE OUR CHILD'S GODPARENTS.
WE WOULD BE HONORED, SIR.
THE FEELING'S MUTUAL, OLD FRIEND.
WE WILL KEEP YOUR UNBORN CHILD SAFE.
I KNOW YOU WILL...

LOOK MOMMY! A SHOOTING STAR!
MAKE A WISH, REGINALD...
"...SHOOTING STARS BRING GOOD LUCK!"
LORD AND MASTER, HEAR OUR PRAYERS...
SUMMON YOU, WE FOUR WOULD DARE...
RAISE UP YOUR WINGS, RISE THROUGH THE AIR...
O FALLEN ONE...
"...THASARO!"


MUST BE THRILLING BRINGING A NEW LIFE INTO THE WORLD. STARTING A FAMILY.


I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO CHILDREN SOMEDAY. OUR OWN FAMILY.
AREN'T YOU?
NOT SURE I'M READY FOR THAT KIND OF RESPONSIBILITY YET, HON.

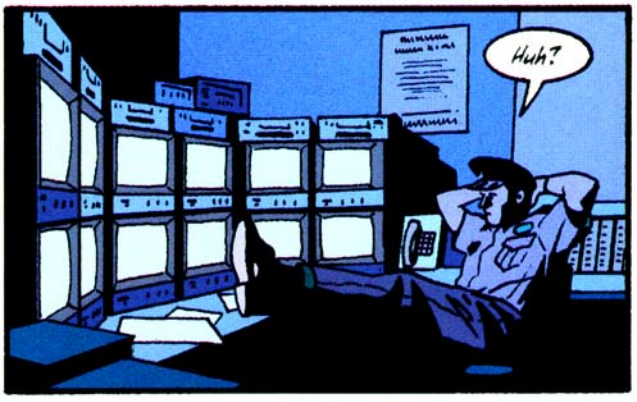
OH.

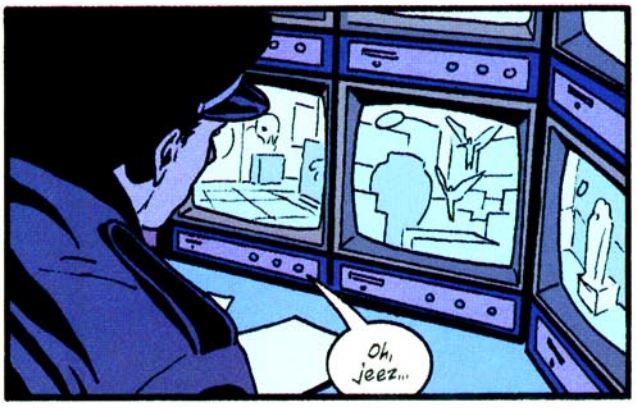
SHAYERA...?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WANT CHILDREN, KATAR. CERTAINLY NOT ON MY ACCOUNT...

WHOA! YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG, SHAY.
JUST BECAUSE I DON'T WANT A FAMILY NOW, DOESN'T MEAN I DON'T WANT ONE EVER.
I WOULD LOVE TO BE THE FATHER OF YOUR CHILDREN... SOMEDAY.

HONEST...?
CROSS MY HEART.

MIDWAY CITY MUSEUM

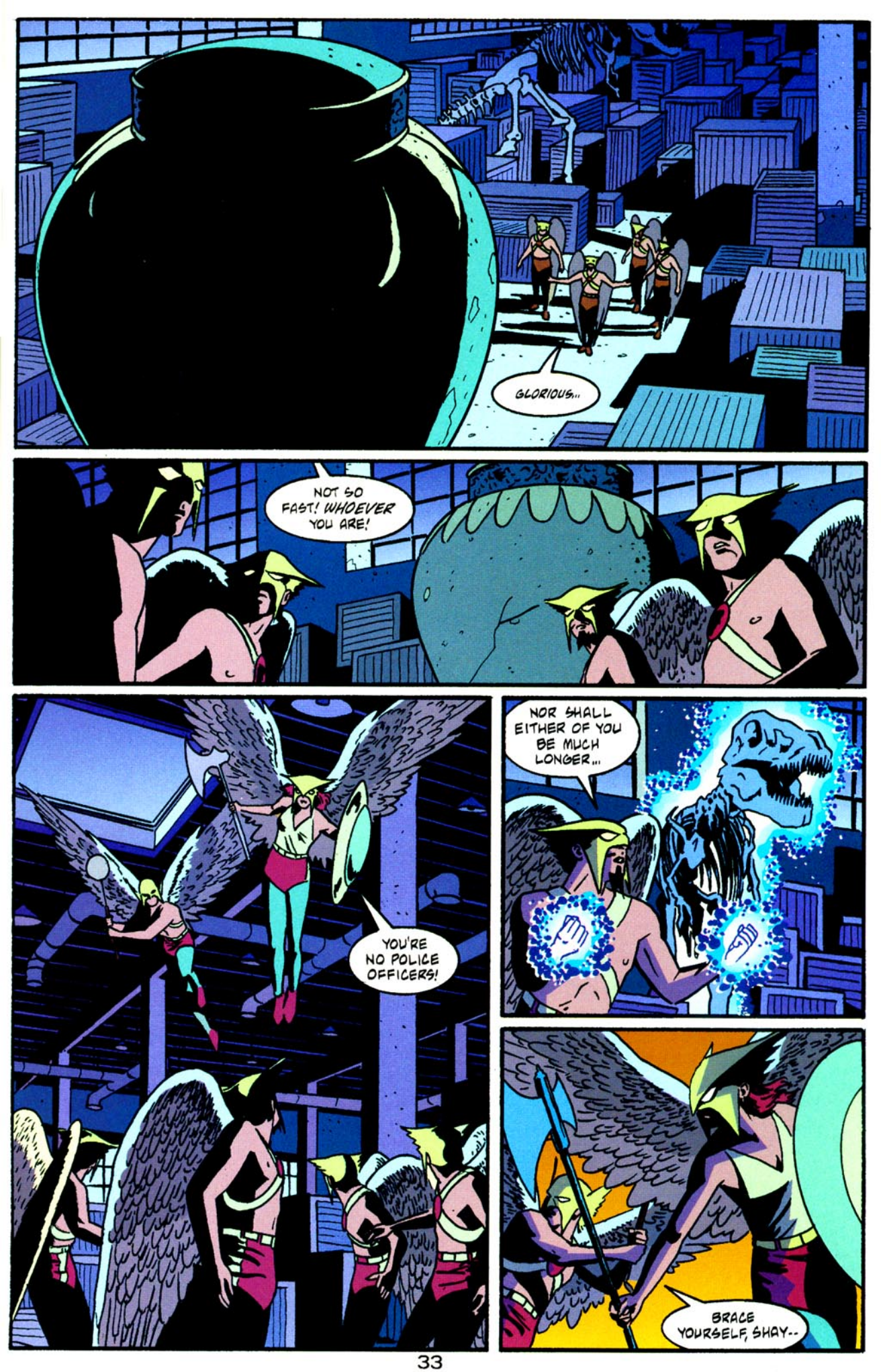

Huh?

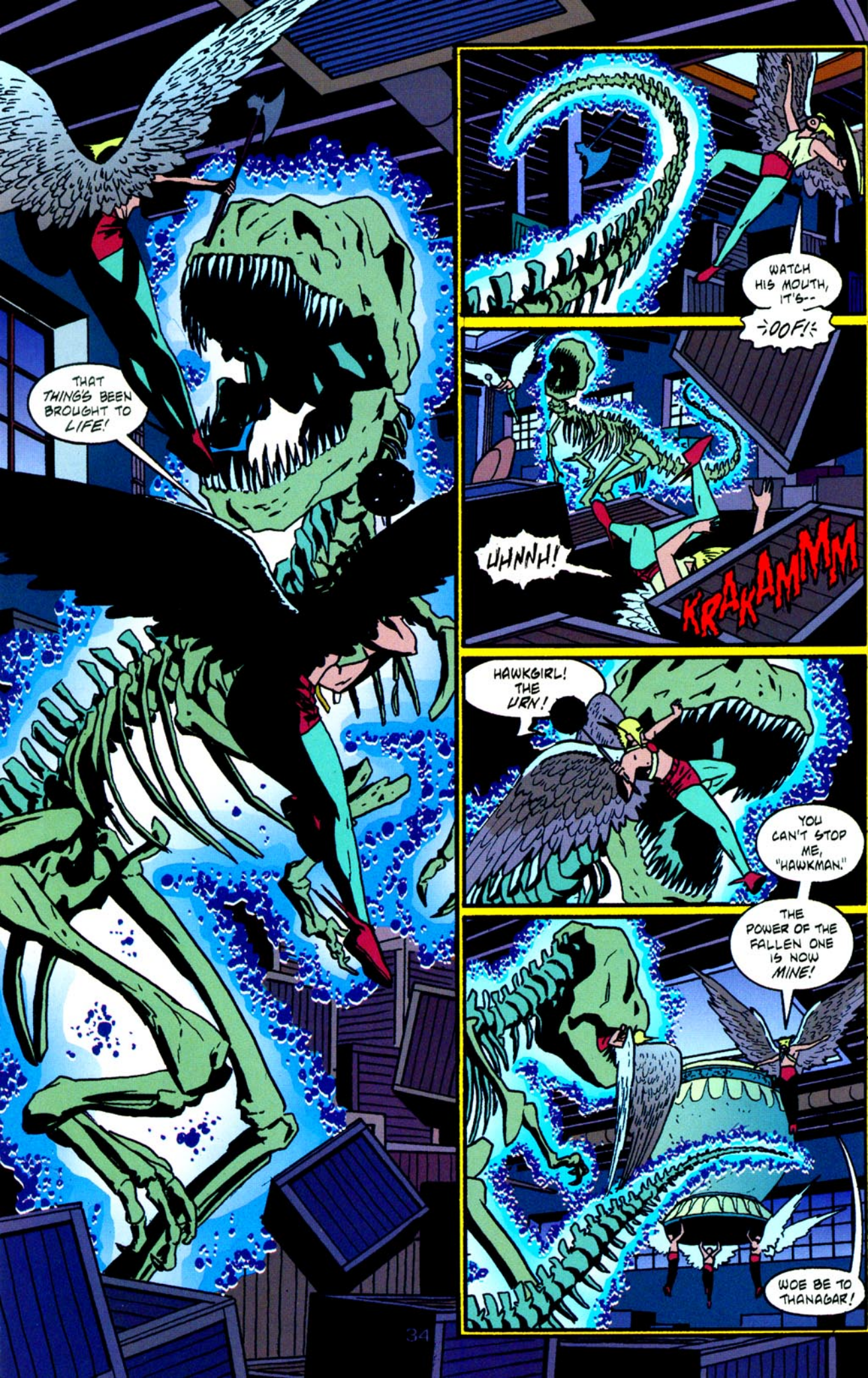

Oh, jeez...

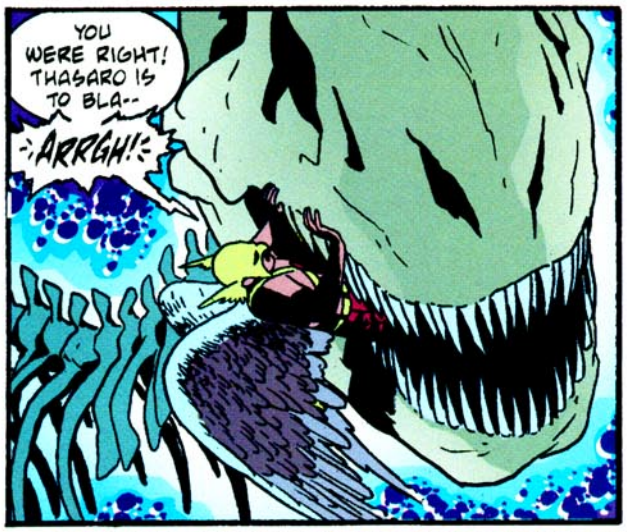
...AND YOU'RE SURE YOU FEEL ALL RIGHT, DEAR? THE BABY'S FINE...?

GOOD. I'LL BE HOME AS SOON AS I--

COMMISSIONER EMMETT! THERE'S BEEN A BREAK-IN AT THE MUSEUM!
IT LOOKS LIKE HAWKMAN AND HAWKGIRL!
WHAT!?!
DON'T WAIT UP, MARJORIE...
RRRING! RRRING!
YES, COMMISSIONER...? AT THE MUSEUM ...?
OF COURSE. IMMEDIATELY.
LET'S GET DRESSED.


GLORIOUS...
NOT SO FAST! WHOEVER YOU ARE!
YOU'RE NO POLICE OFFICERS!
NOR SHALL EITHER OF YOU BE MUCH LONGER...
BRACE YOURSELF, SHAY--


THAT THING'S BEEN BROUGHT TO LIFE!
WATCH HIS MOUTH, IT'S--
OOF!
UHNNH!
KRAKAMMM
HAWKGIRL! THE URN!
YOU CAN'T STOP ME, "HAWKMAN."
THE POWER OF THE FALLEN ONE IS NOW MINE!
WOE BE TO THANAGAR!


YOU WERE RIGHT! THASARO IS TO BLA--
-:ARRGH!:-

YOU SHOULD KNOW BY NOW, KATAR--

KARASSH!
-- YOUR WIFE IS NEVER WRONG!

HAWKMAN! HAWKGIRL! WHAT IN THE WORLD'S GOING ON HERE?
NO TIME TO EXPLAIN, COMMISSIONER.
WE HAVE TO LEAVE FOR THANAGAR IMMEDIATELY.

IT'S A BIT OUT OF OUR LEAGUE... AND JURISDICTION... BUT IS THERE ANYTHING MIDWAY'S FINEST CAN DO TO HELP?
YOUR CONCERN IS APPRECIATED...

...BUT THIS IS OUR FIGHT.

WE MUST REACH THANAGAR BEFORE THOSE THIEVES...

...LORD KNOWS WHAT HAVOC THASARO WILL WREAK IF HE'S RELEASED!
KATAR, HONEY... I'M GOING TO THE PRAYER SHRINE.
PUT THE SHIP ON AUTOPILOT. JOIN ME.

IT WOULD MEAN SO MUCH TO ME.

SHAYERA... I-I CAN'T.
PRAYER AND RELIGION AND ALL THAT JUST DON'T HOLD THE SAME MEANING FOR ME AS THEY DO FOR YOU.

ME SITTING NEXT TO YOU AT THE SHRINE, BEFORE SOME STATUE, RECITING WORDS I DON'T EVEN BELIEVE...
I JUST DON'T WANT MY LACK OF FAITH TO CHEAPEN YOURS.

HEY, IT'S YOUR KARMA...
JUST DON'T COME CRYING TO ME WHEN THE GODS SMITE YOU.
CUTE.

HEARKEN TO MY PRAYER, O ANCIENT ONES!
WITH ALL HUMILITY AND GRACE DO I PROSTRATE MYSELF BEFORE YOU...
...HUMBLY BEGGING YOUR HOLY SHRIVENESS FOR ANY TRESPASSES PERPETRATED IN YOUR INFINITE SIGHT...

...AND BESEECHING YOUR ETERNAL BENEFICENCE FOR THE FORTITUDE OF BODY AND PRESENCE OF MIND TO O'ERCOME OUR ENEMIES IN BATTLE 'PON THE HORIZON.

ONLY WHEN BODY, MIND AND SOUL ARE UNITED AS ONE SHALL THE FALLEN ONE FALL AGAIN...

HOLY...

THERE ARE NO COINCIDENCES IN THIS LIFE, CHILD OF HOL...
DESTINY BINDS ALL.

REMEMBER THIS...

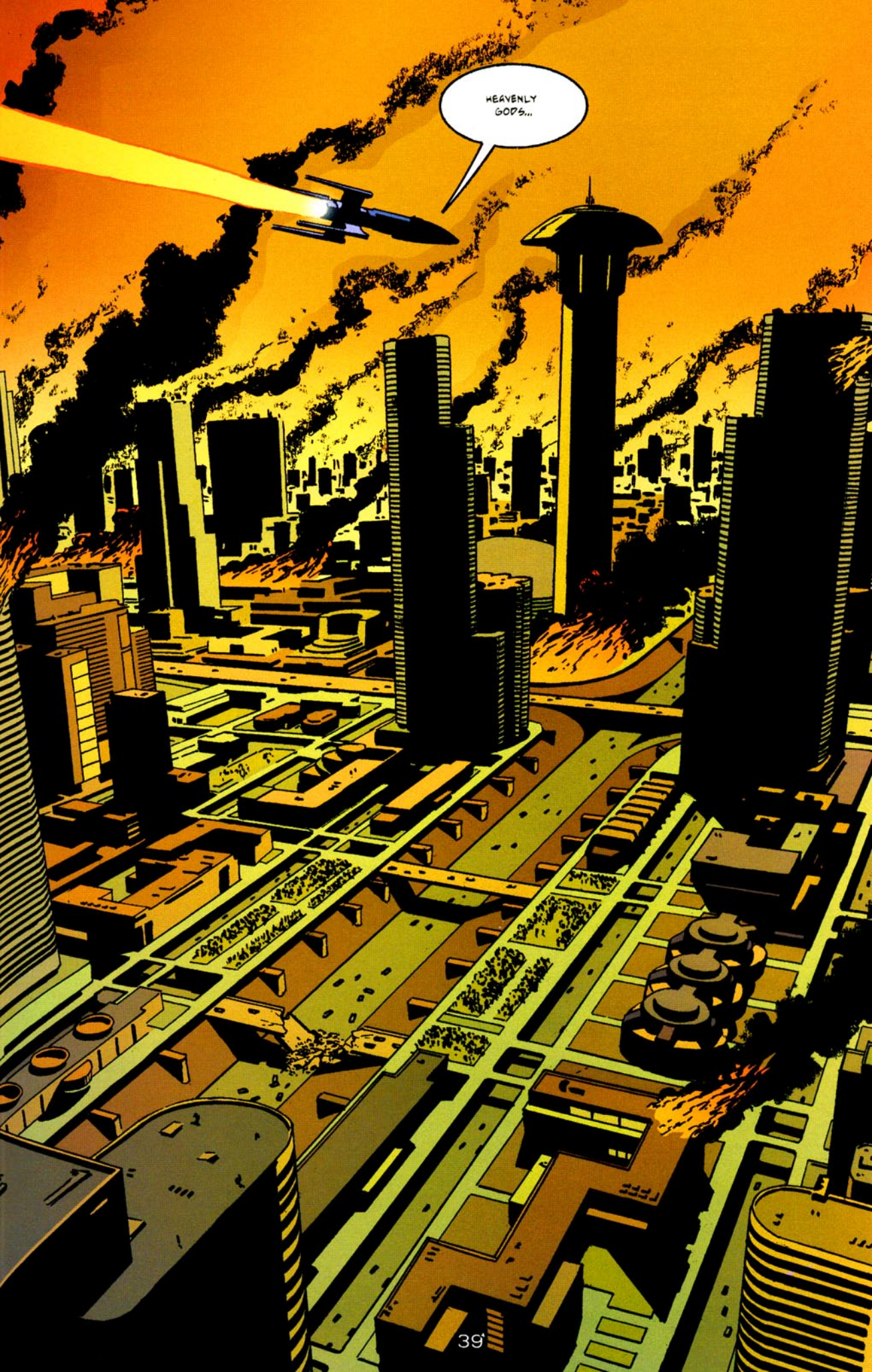
?

WOW.
SORRY TO DISTURB YOUR MEDITATIONS, SHAYERA--

--BUT THERE'S SOMETHING YOU REALLY NEED TO SEE.
ON MY WAY...

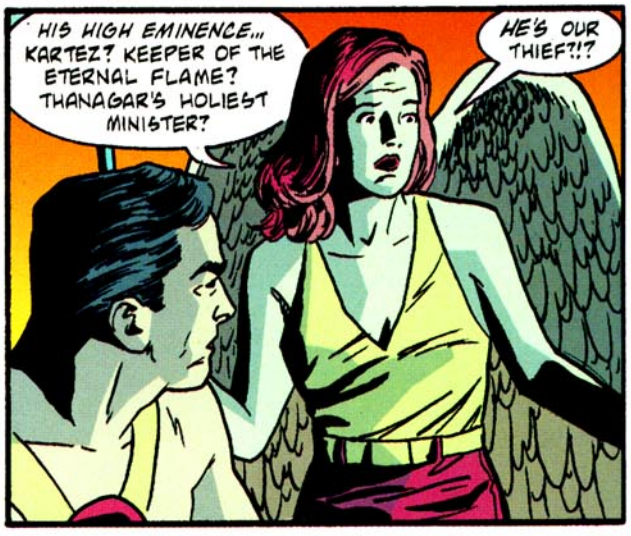
WHAT'S WRONG, KATAR?

EVERYTHING!


HEAVENLY GODS...

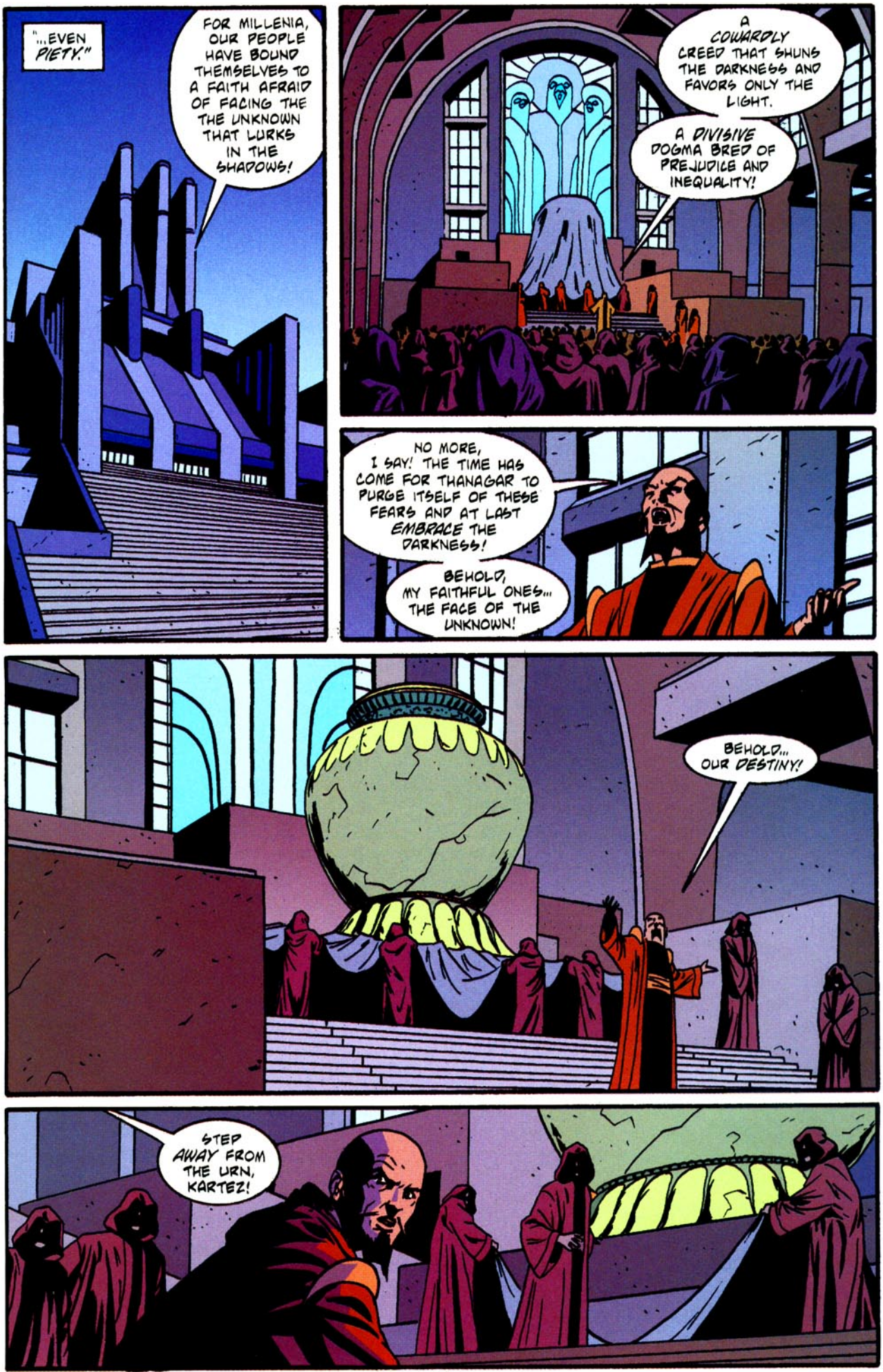
KATAR... SHAYERA... THIS IS KRANDOR VAT... ARE YOU RECEIVING THIS TRANSMISSION...?
BARELY, SIR! WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON DOWN THERE?!

RIOTING IN THE STREETS... PEOPLE DYING... ABSOLUTE CHAOS! THE END OF... ALL THANAGAR!
THANKS TO... KARTEZ... AND THAT DAMNABLE URN!


HIS HIGH EMINENCE... KARTEZ? KEEPER OF THE ETERNAL FLAME? THANAGAR'S HOLIEST MINISTER?
HE'S OUR THIEF?!?

MUST... STOP THAT HERETIC... BEFORE... DESTROYS US ALL...!

I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE IT! KARTEZ, OF ALL PEOPLE?!
EVIL WEARS MANY MASKS, SHAY...


"...EVEN PIETY."
FOR MILLENIA, OUR PEOPLE HAVE BOUND THEMSELVES TO A FAITH AFRAID OF FACING THE THE UNKNOWN THAT LURKS IN THE SHADOWS!
A COWARDLY CREED THAT SHUNS THE DARKNESS AND FAVORS ONLY THE LIGHT.
A DIVISIVE DOGMA BRED OF PREJUDICE AND INEQUALITY!
NO MORE, I SAY! THE TIME HAS COME FOR THANAGAR TO PURGE ITSELF OF THESE FEARS AND AT LAST EMBRACE THE DARKNESS!
BEHOLD, MY FAITHFUL ONES... THE FACE OF THE UNKNOWN!
BEHOLD... OUR DESTINY!
STEP AWAY FROM THE URN, KARTEZ!

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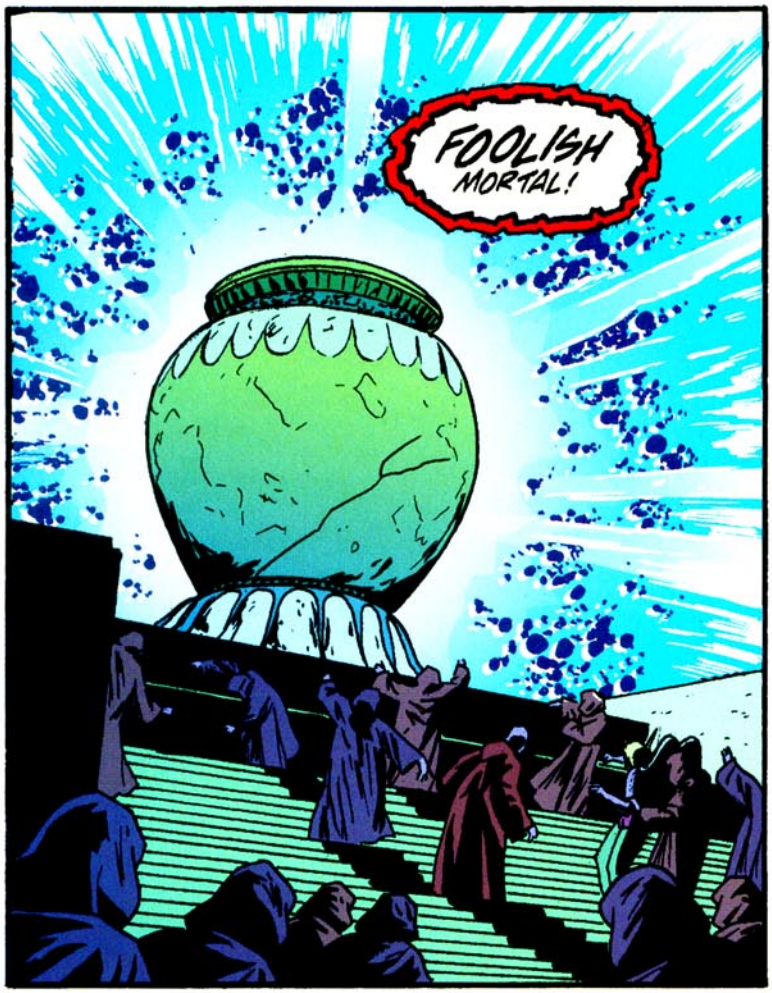
TOO LATE, INFIDEL!
GAAH!
CHURRIP

SHAYERA!

LET-- ummh! --GO!
IF ONLY YOU UNDERSTOOD THE TRUE NATURE OF FAITH, OFFICER HOL.
IT CAN MOVE MOUNTAINS, BEND RIVERS... CONQUER THE UNYIELDING HEARTS AND MINDS OF MEN.
MY FAITH HAS GIVEN ME POWER BEYOND RECKONING. POWER THAT I ALONE COMMAND.

WHAT HAS YOURS GIVEN YOU...?

NO! DON'T!


FOOLISH MORTAL!

AIIIEEE!
YAAAHH!

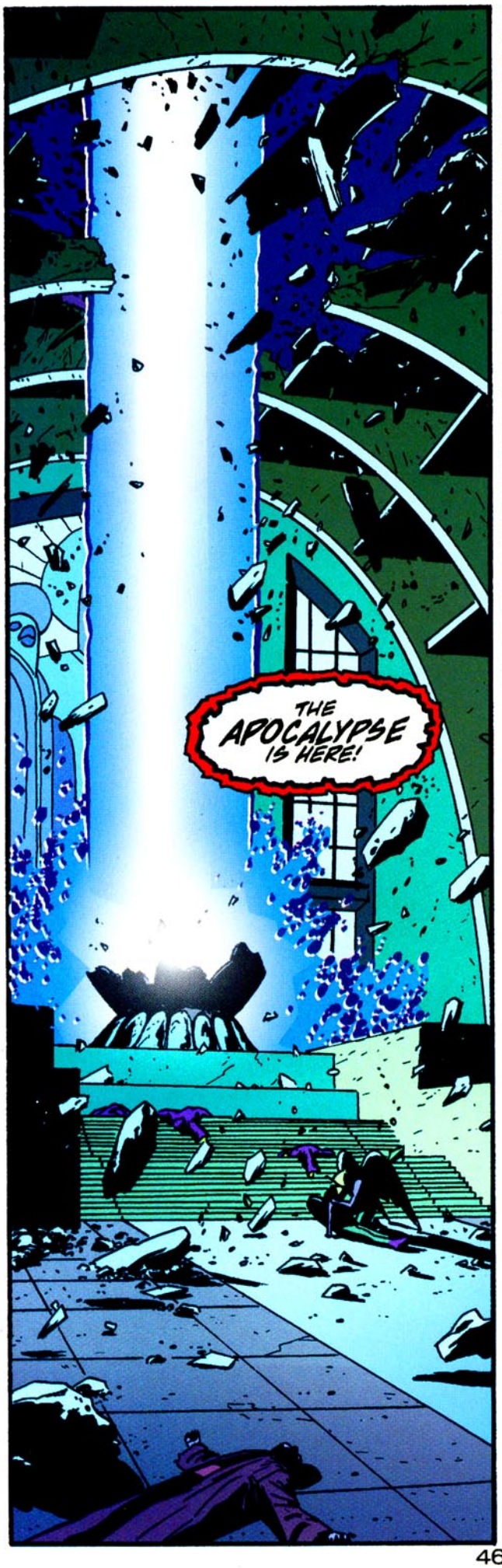
?

I AM SLAVE TO NO MAN!
!

ARRRGH!
O-DREAD THASARO! MY L-LORD AND M-MASTER! I-I HAVE SERVED YOU W-WELL... B-BROUGHT YOU HOME...

W-WHY HAVE Y-YOU FORSAKEN ME...

HA! RUN, COWARDS!
TRY TO SAVE YOUR INSIGNIFICANT LITTLE LIVES!
BOOOM!

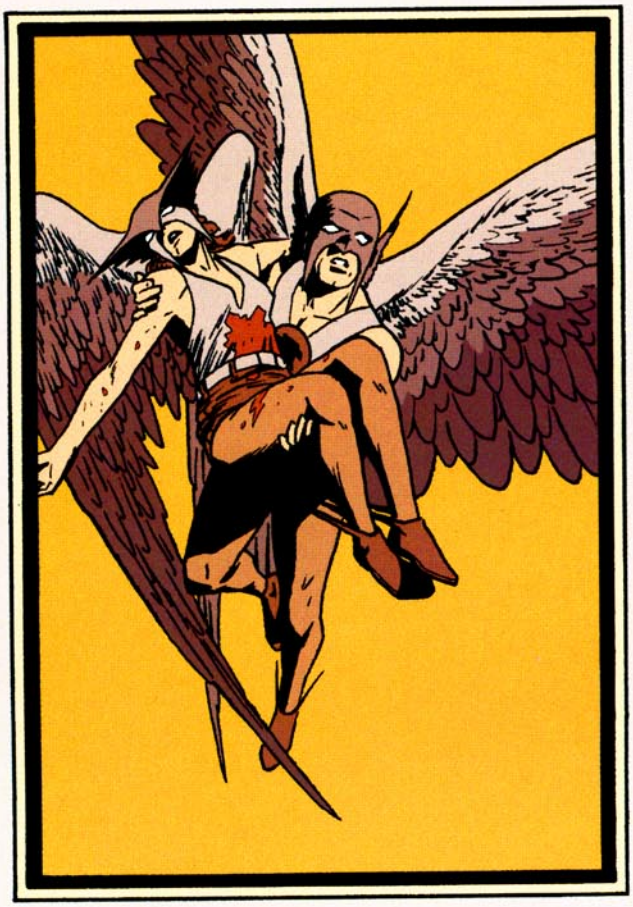

THE APOCALYPSE IS HERE!

VENGEANCE!

Uhhnh... K-KATAR...? WH-WHAT HAPPENED?
WH-WHERE'S THASARO...?

EARTH.

NEXT



Flight of Faith

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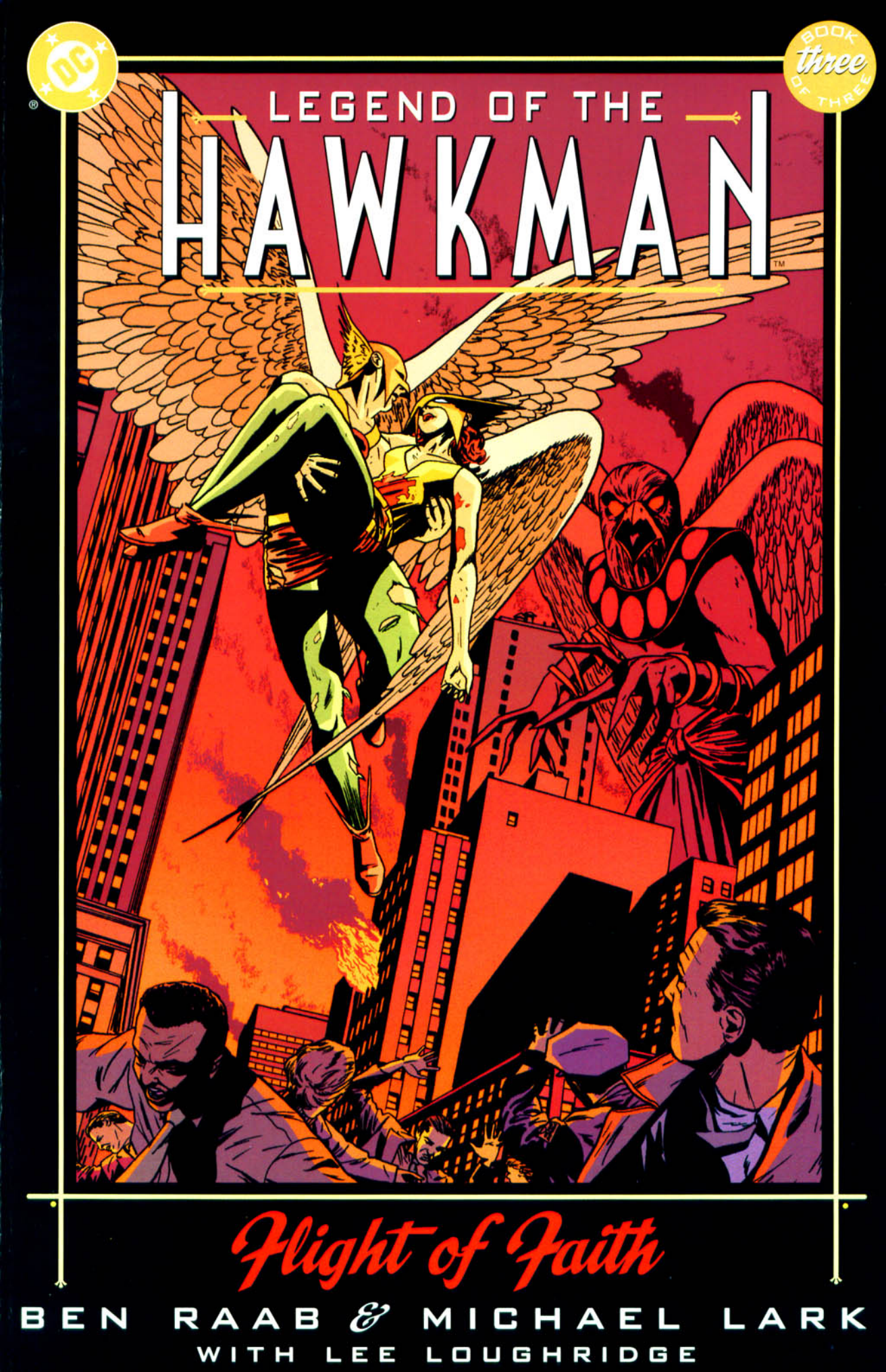
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LEGEND OF THE
HAWKMAN
Flight of Faith
BEN RAAB & MICHAEL LARK
WITH LEE LOUGHRIDGE

LEGEND OF THE HAWKMAN™

Book Three of Three

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PRINTED IN CANADA.
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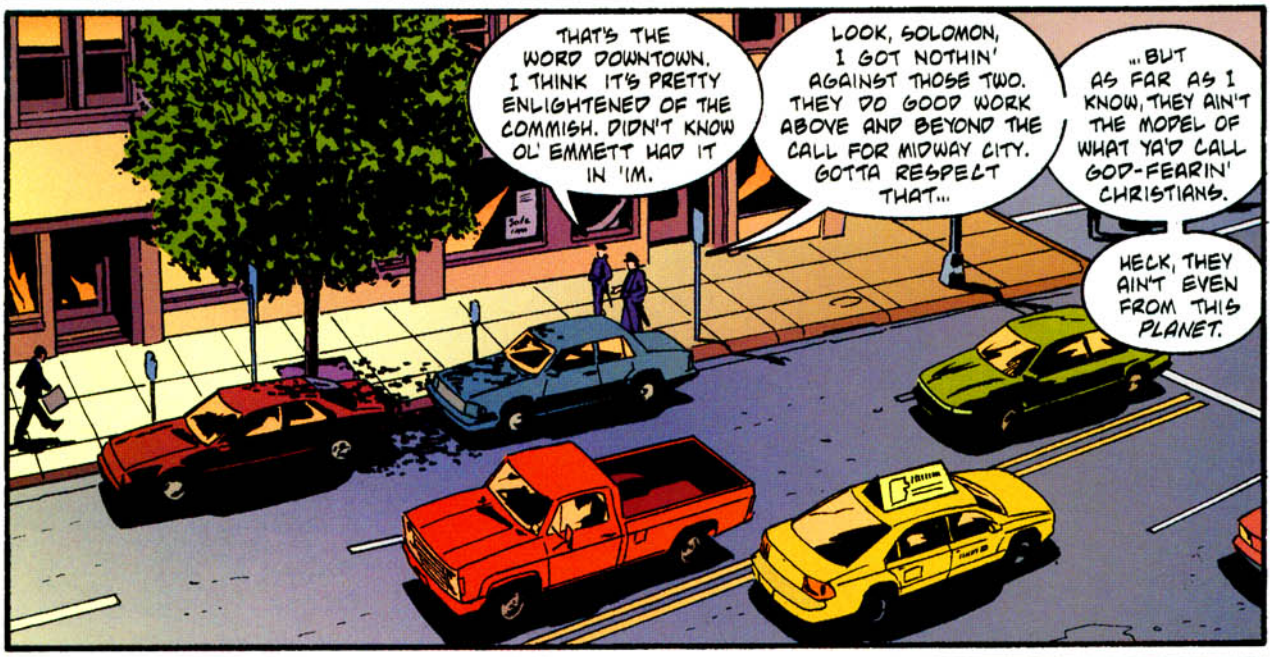
CHAPTER ONE

Flight of Faith

HAWKMAN AND HAWKGIRL? GODPARENTS ...?

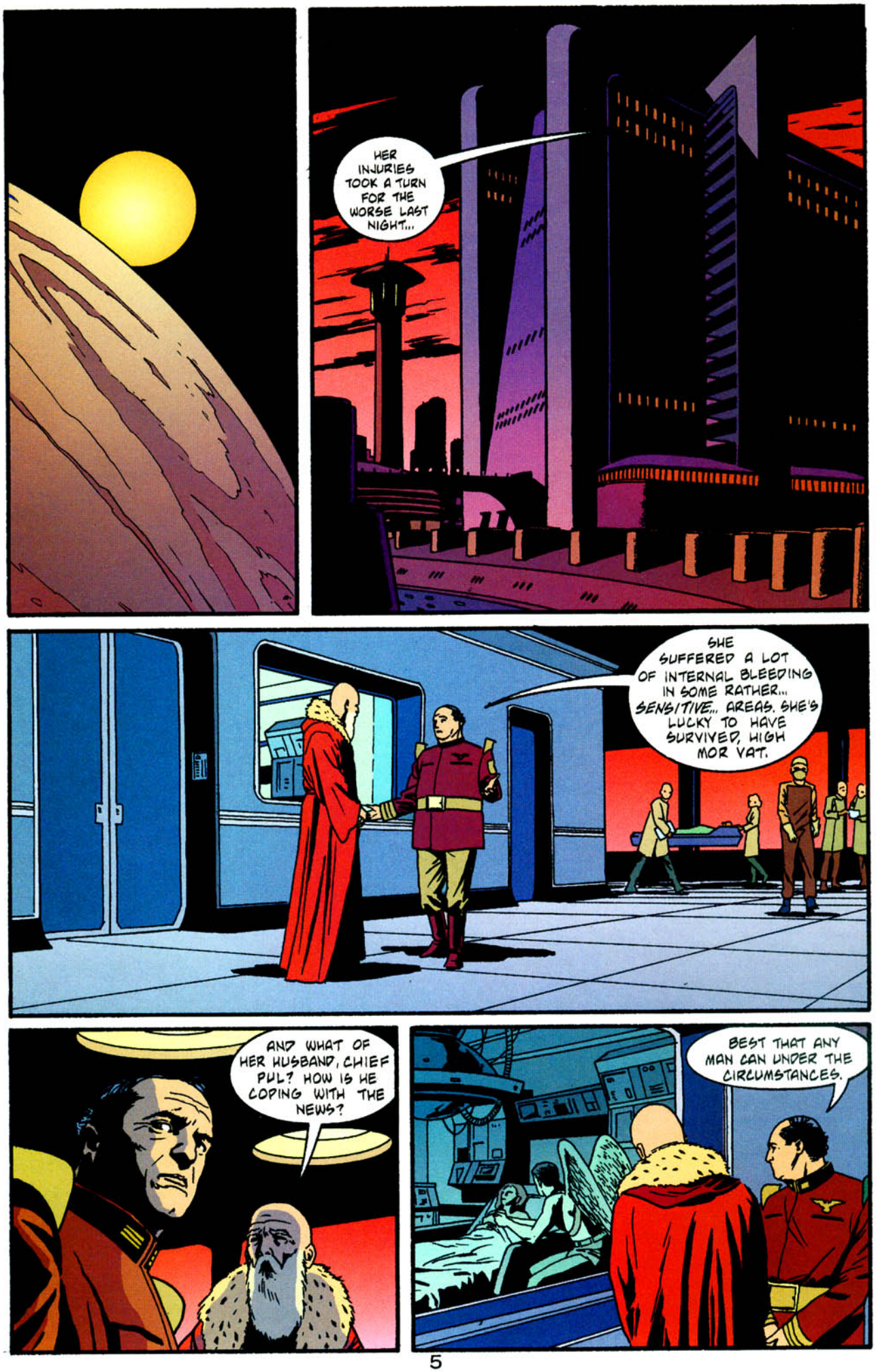

THAT'S THE WORD DOWNTOWN. I THINK IT'S PRETTY ENLIGHTENED OF THE COMMISH. DIDN'T KNOW OL' EMMETT HAD IT IN 'IM.
LOOK, SOLOMON, I GOT NOTHIN' AGAINST THOSE TWO. THEY DO GOOD WORK ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL FOR MIDWAY CITY. GOTTA RESPECT THAT...
...BUT AS FAR AS I KNOW, THEY AIN'T THE MODEL OF WHAT YA'D CALL GOD-FEARIN' CHRISTIANS.
HECK, THEY AIN'T EVEN FROM THIS PLANET.

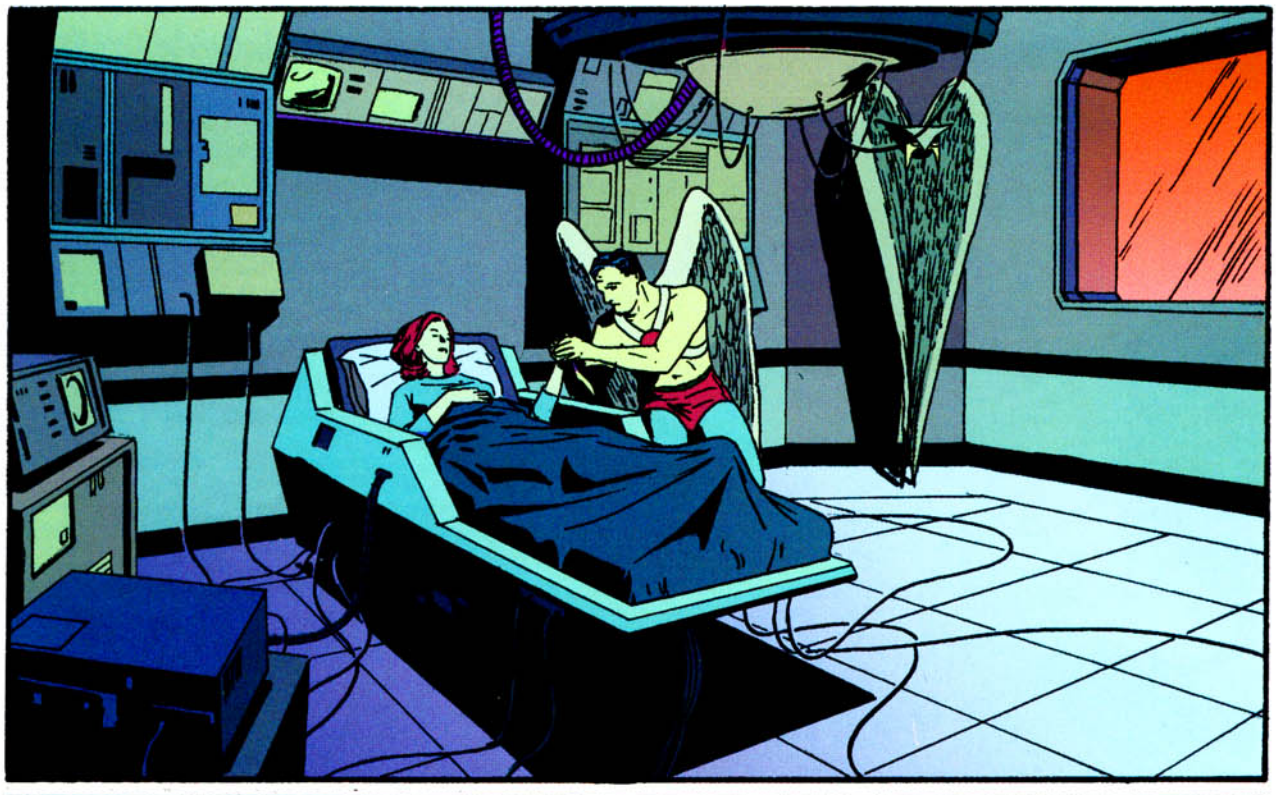
AND THAT MAKES THEM HEATHEN IDOLATERS. RIGHT?
QUIT BEIN' SO DAMN LIBERAL AND THINK ABOUT IT, KID...

...WHAT THE HELL COULD A COUPLE OF ALIENS POSSIBLY KNOW FROM FAITH?

FLIT FLIT FLIT
FLUT FLUT FLUT FLUT
CAW! CAW! CAW!
WHAT THE--?!?
AAHH!

-:GAAAH!:-
MY EYES!!!
FLUT
FLUT
FLUT
FLUT
FLUT
FLUT
FLUT
FLUT


HER INJURIES TOOK A TURN FOR THE WORSE LAST NIGHT...
SHE SUFFERED A LOT OF INTERNAL BLEEDING IN SOME RATHER... SENSITIVE... AREAS. SHE'S LUCKY TO HAVE SURVIVED, HIGH MOR VAT.
AND WHAT OF HER HUSBAND, CHIEF PUL? HOW IS HE COPING WITH THE NEWS?
BEST THAT ANY MAN CAN UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

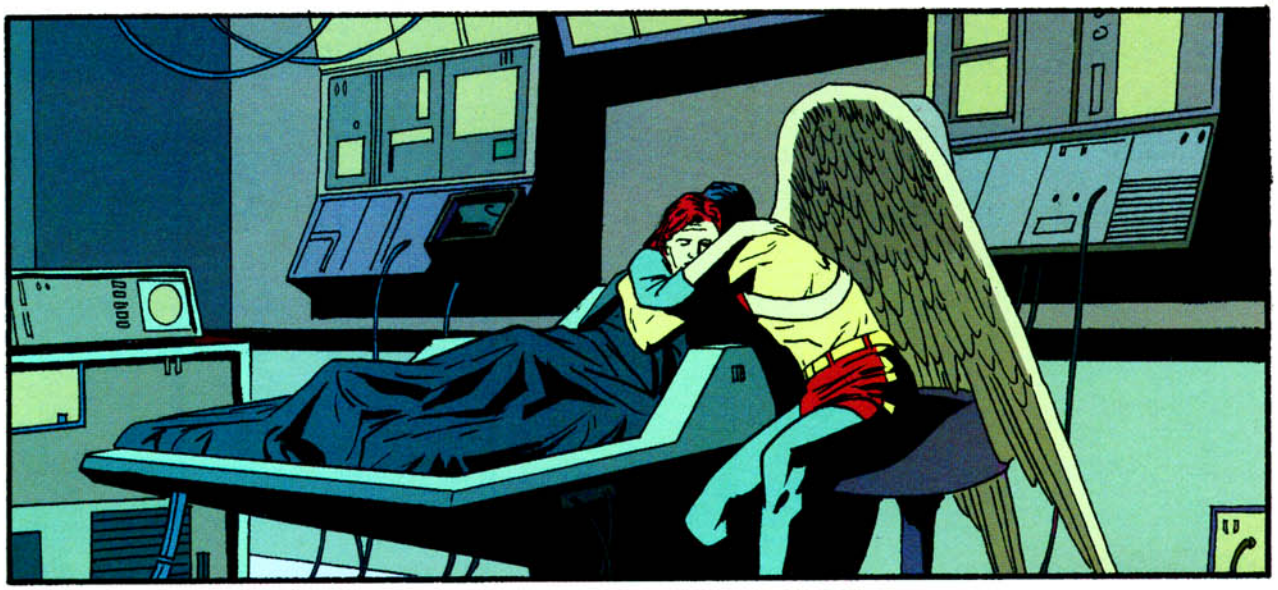


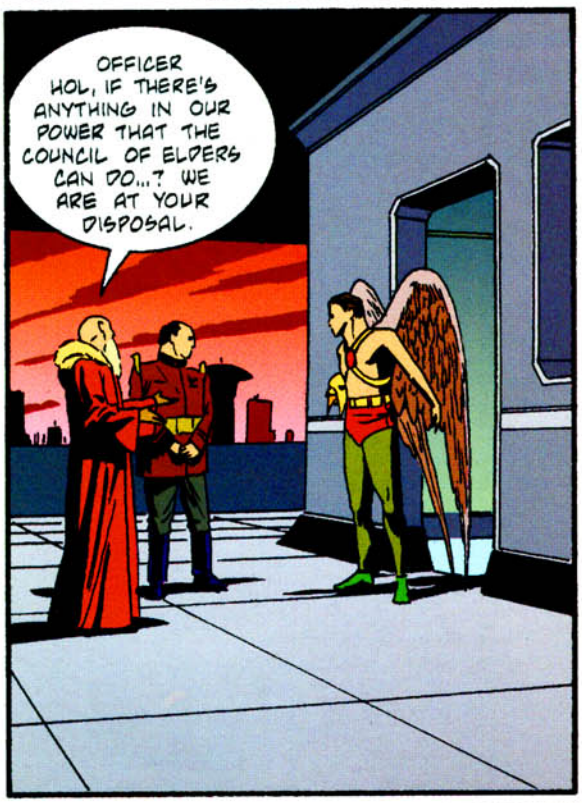
K-KATAR ...?
HUSH, SWEETHEART. REST NOW.

S-SOMETHING'S WRONG, KATAR. INSIDE ME I-I CAN FEEL IT--
THERE WERE COMPLICATIONS DURING SURGERY.
THE HEALERS DID ALL THEY COULD, BUT--

BUT WE CAN'T HAVE CHILDREN ANYMORE...

...CAN WE?

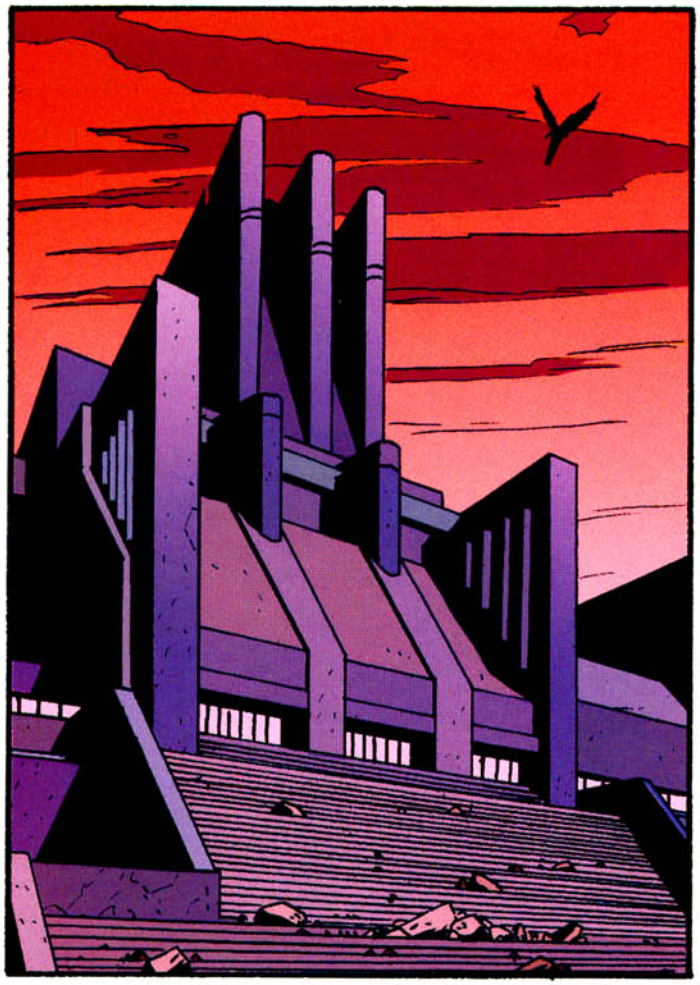


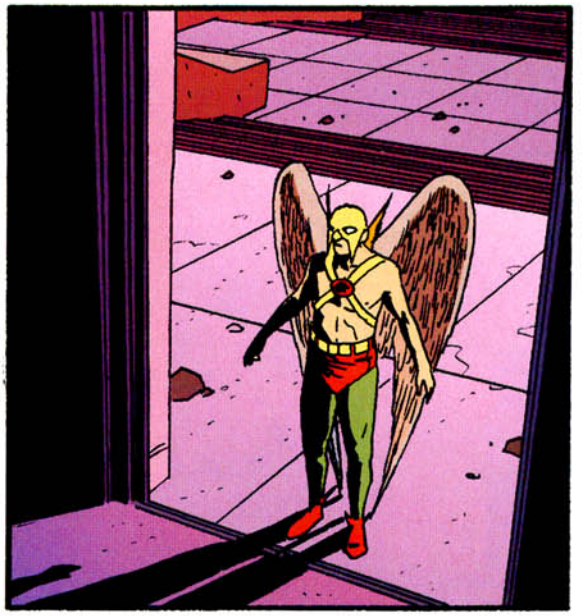

OFFICER HOL, IF THERE'S ANYTHING IN OUR POWER THAT THE COUNCIL OF ELDERS CAN DO...? WE ARE AT YOUR DISPOSAL.

THE POLICE FORCE TOO, KATAR. JUST SAY THE WORD.

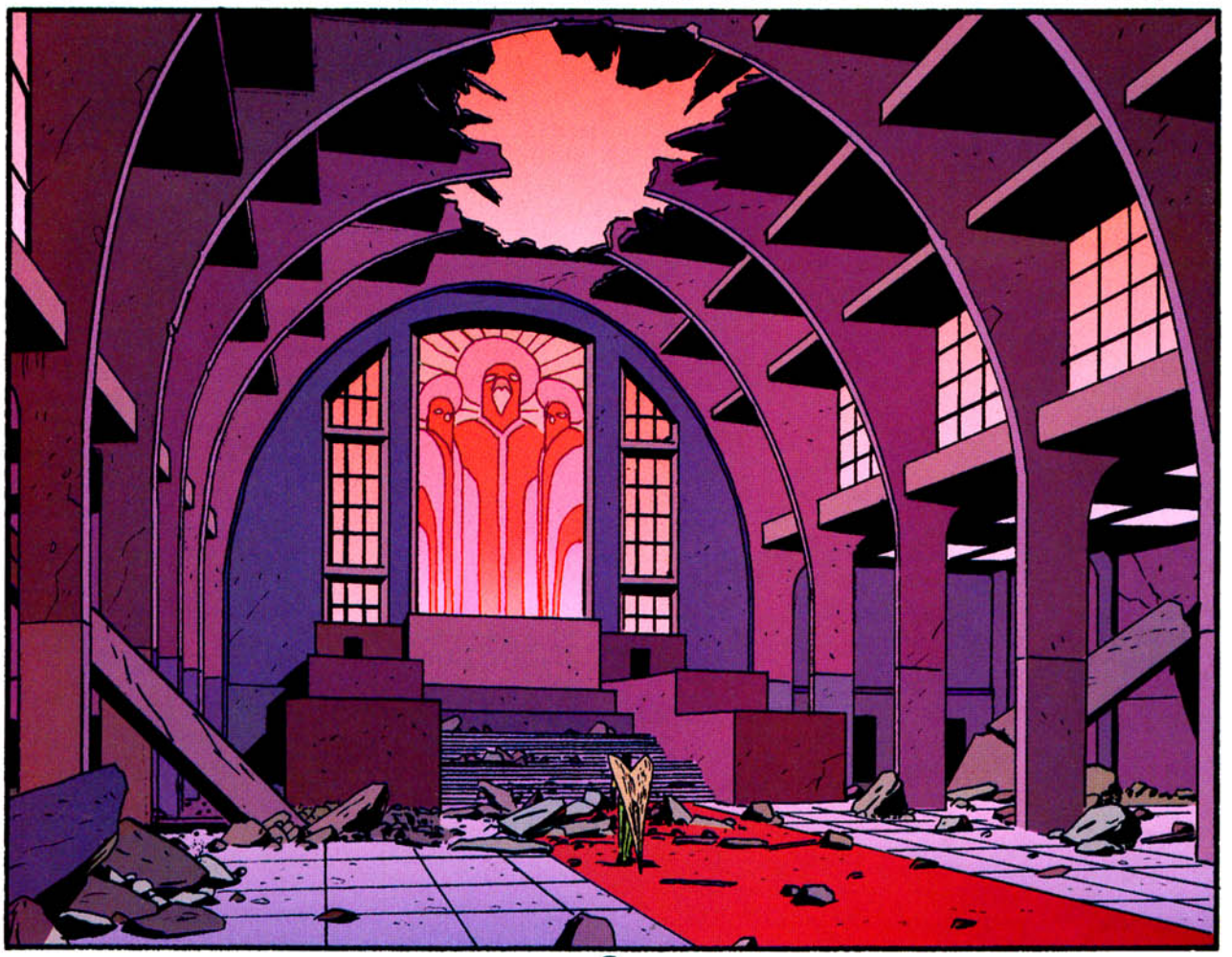
THAT'S MIGHTY KIND OF YOU, GENTLE-MEN.

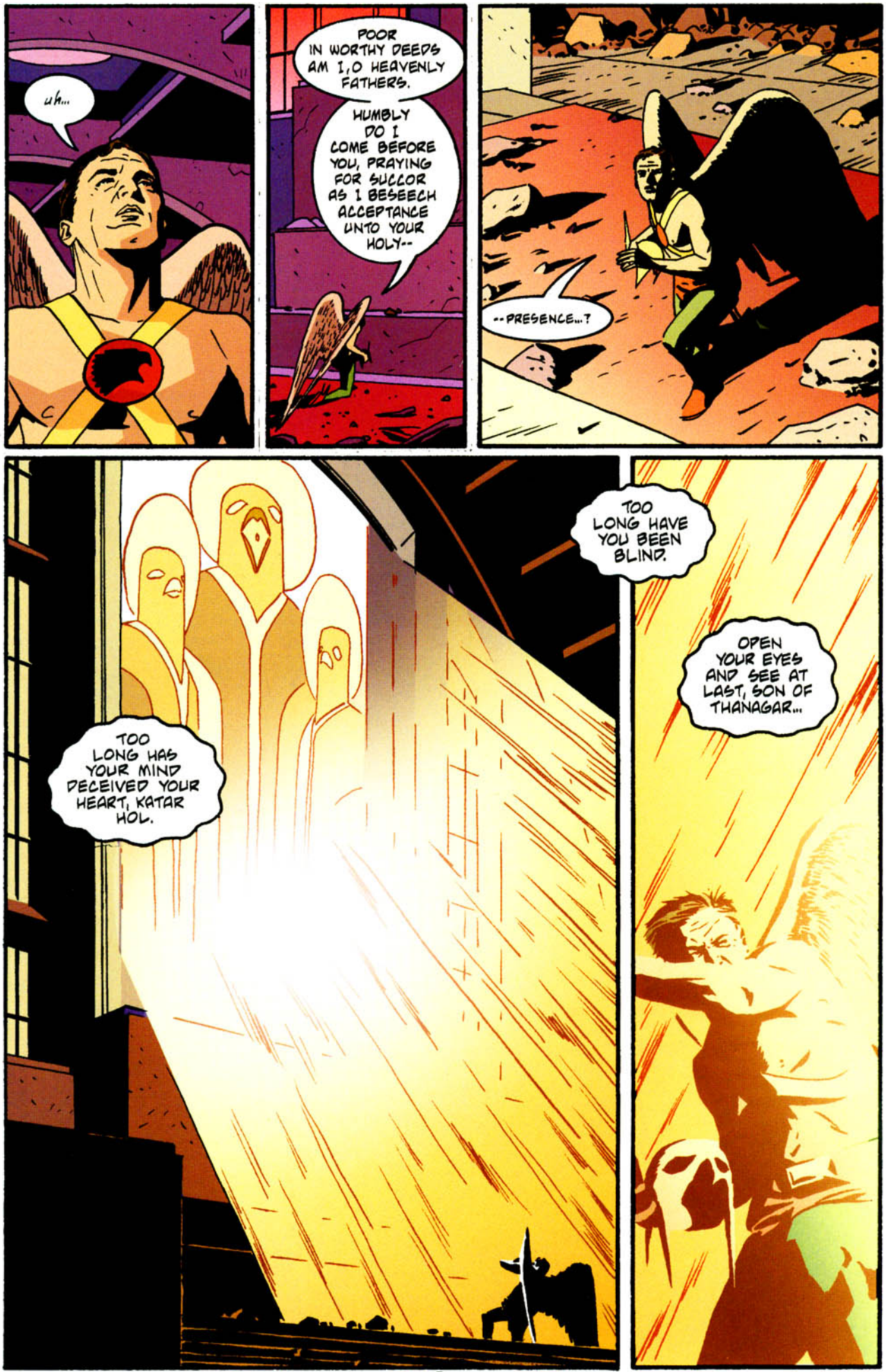
BUT LOATH AS I AM TO ADMIT IT, I'M AFRAID WHAT I NEED RIGHT NOW MAY ONLY BE PROVIDED BY A *HIGHER* AUTHORITY...



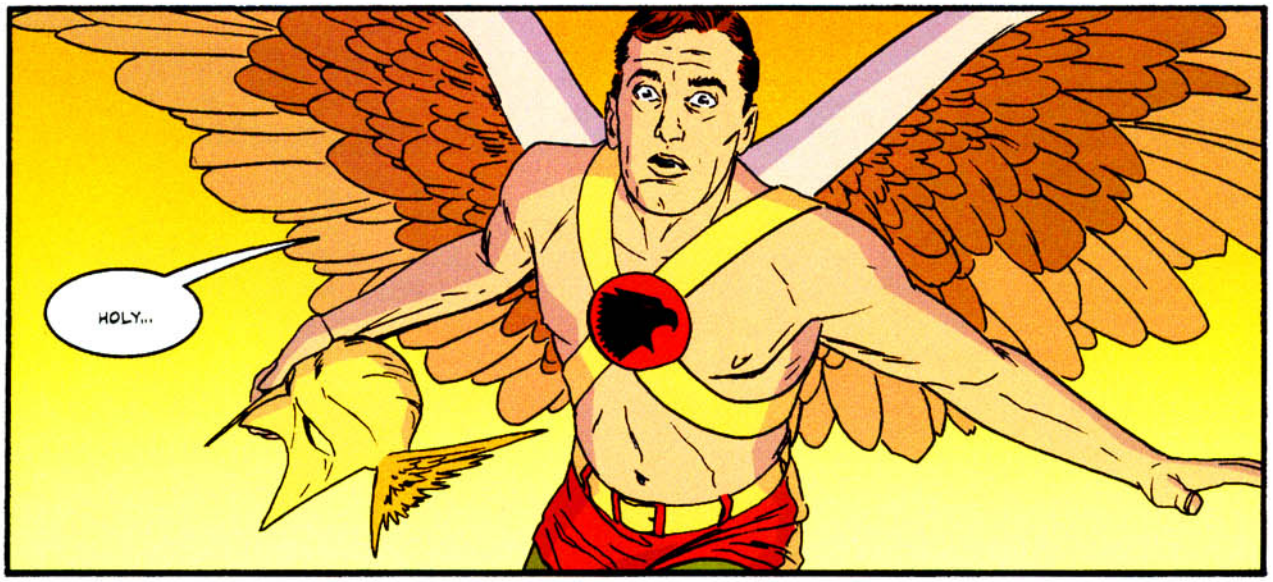


SHAYERA.
DO IT FOR SHAYERA...




uh...
POOR IN WORTHY DEEDS AM I, O HEAVENLY FATHERS.
HUMBLY DO I COME BEFORE YOU, PRAYING FOR SUCCOR AS I BESEECH ACCEPTANCE UNTO YOUR HOLY--
--PRESENCE...?
TOO LONG HAS YOUR MIND DECEIVED YOUR HEART, KATAR HOL.
TOO LONG HAVE YOU BEEN BLIND.
OPEN YOUR EYES AND SEE AT LAST, SON OF THANAGAR...

...FOR YOUR GODS HAVE NEED OF YOU.



AS OLD AS FOREVER ARE WE THREE. KIN TO THE NEVER-ENDING COSMOS.

TO THE HATCHING OF THE GALAXIES DID WE BEAR WITNESS. TO THE BIRTH OF THE PLANETS AND THE CREATION OF THE STARS.

YET ALL THE WIDE WONDERS OF THE UNIVERSE WOULD WE GLADLY FORGET...

TO UNDO THE GREAT SIN SO FOOLISHLY COMMITTED BY OUR IDLE HANDS...

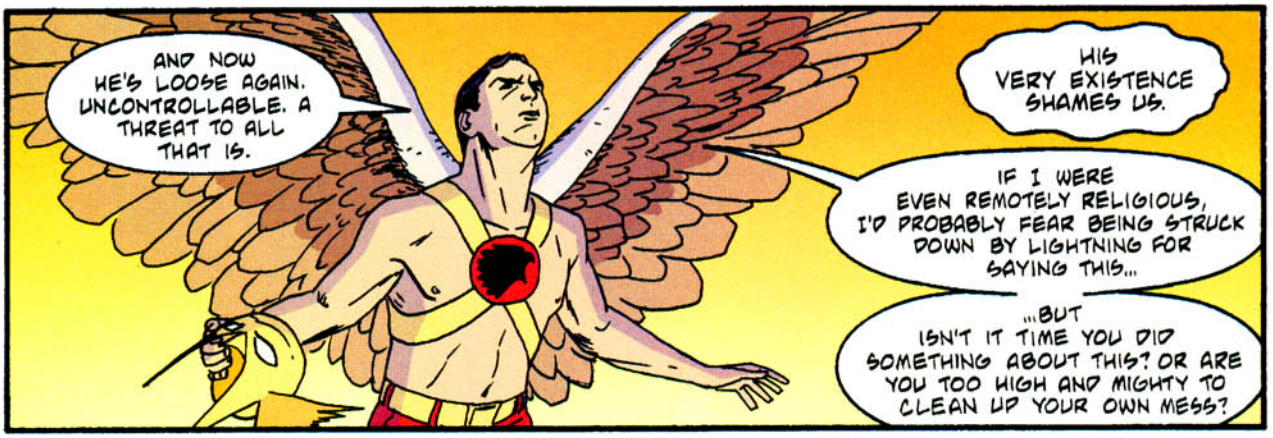
WHEN TIME WAS NEWBORN, AND YOUR PEOPLE WERE BUT CALLOW HATCHLINGS--

--DID WE CONCEIVE OUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT... AND OUR WORST FOLLY.

THASARO.

A TEST OF METTLE WAS HE. A CHALLENGE FOR THE CHAMPIONS OF THANAGAR.

ONLY THE STRONGEST OF THE STRONG WOULD BEST HIM.



THASARO IS BEYOND OUR CONTROL. THE SERVANT HAS BECOME THE MASTER.

TERRIFIC. SO WE'RE ALL *DOOMED*.

THAT IS FOR YOU TO DECIDE.

THERE IS STILL ONE WEAPON THAT CAN HUMBLE THIS MONSTER.

A POWER LONG LOST TO YOU ON THANAGAR THAT YOU MAY YET FIND ON EARTH.

IT IS YOUR DESTINY, KATAR HOL...

SUCH IS THE NATURE OF FAITH.
DO AS WE BESEECH, AND HER SACRIFICE SHALL NOT BE IN VAIN.

THUS DO WE SEAL OUR COVENANT WITH YOU...

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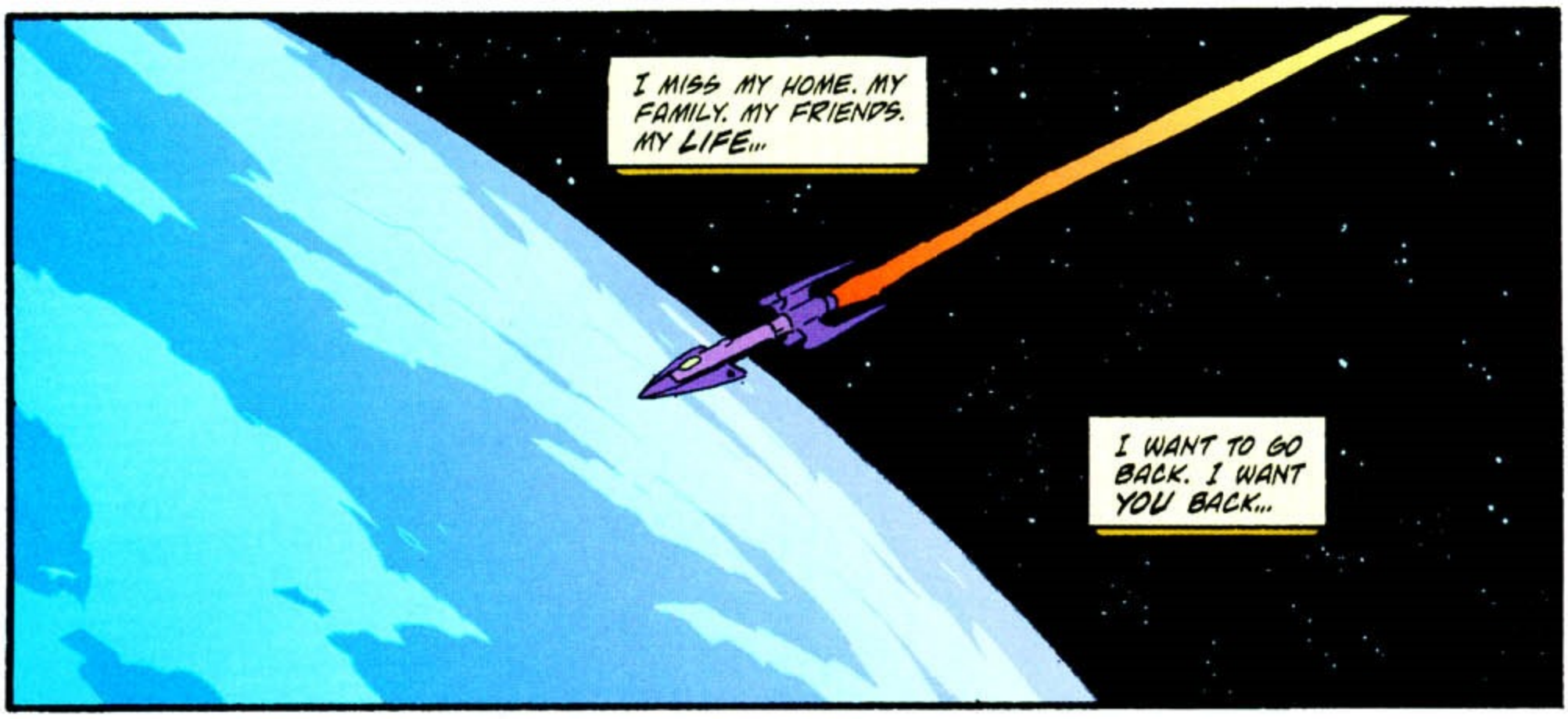
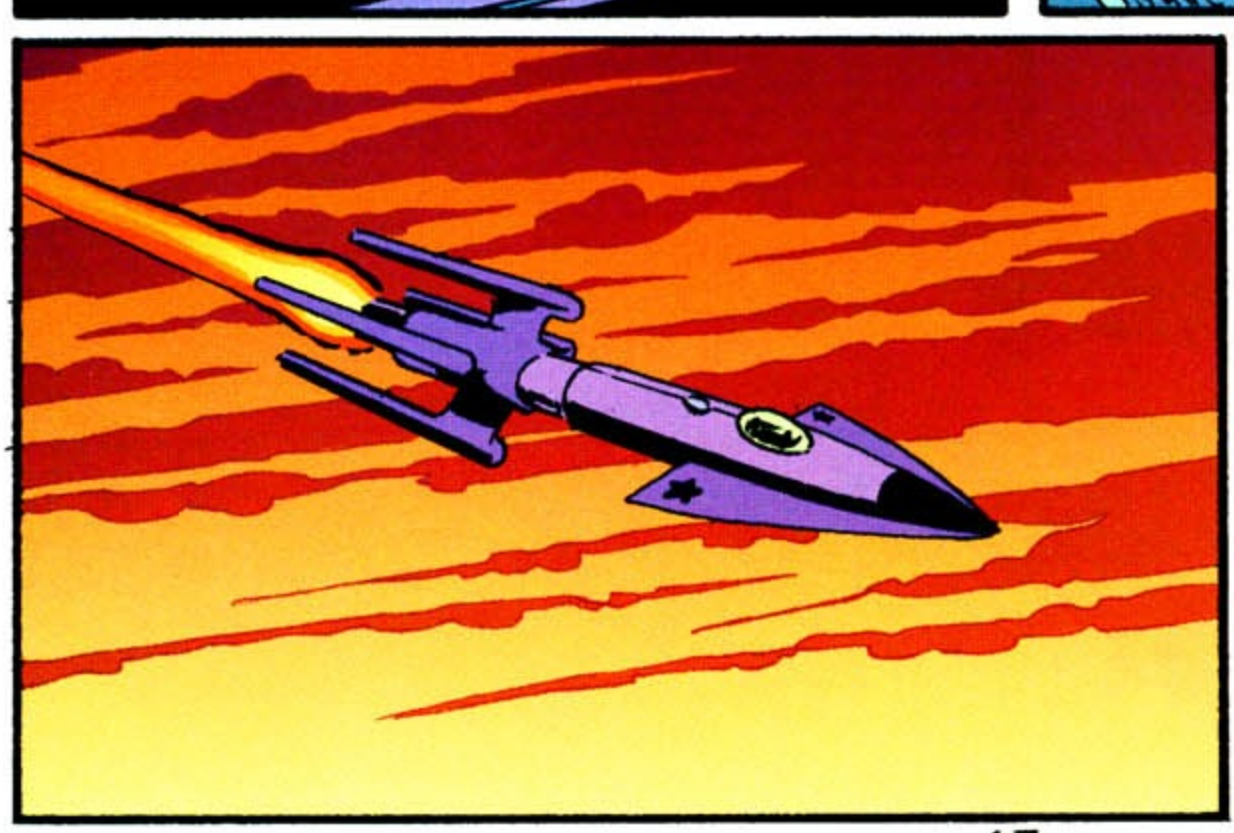
YOUR END IS NIGH, EARTHSPAWN!
TIME TO DIE!
AIEEE!!!
GET 'EM OFFA ME! GET 'EM OFF!!!
RUN! RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!





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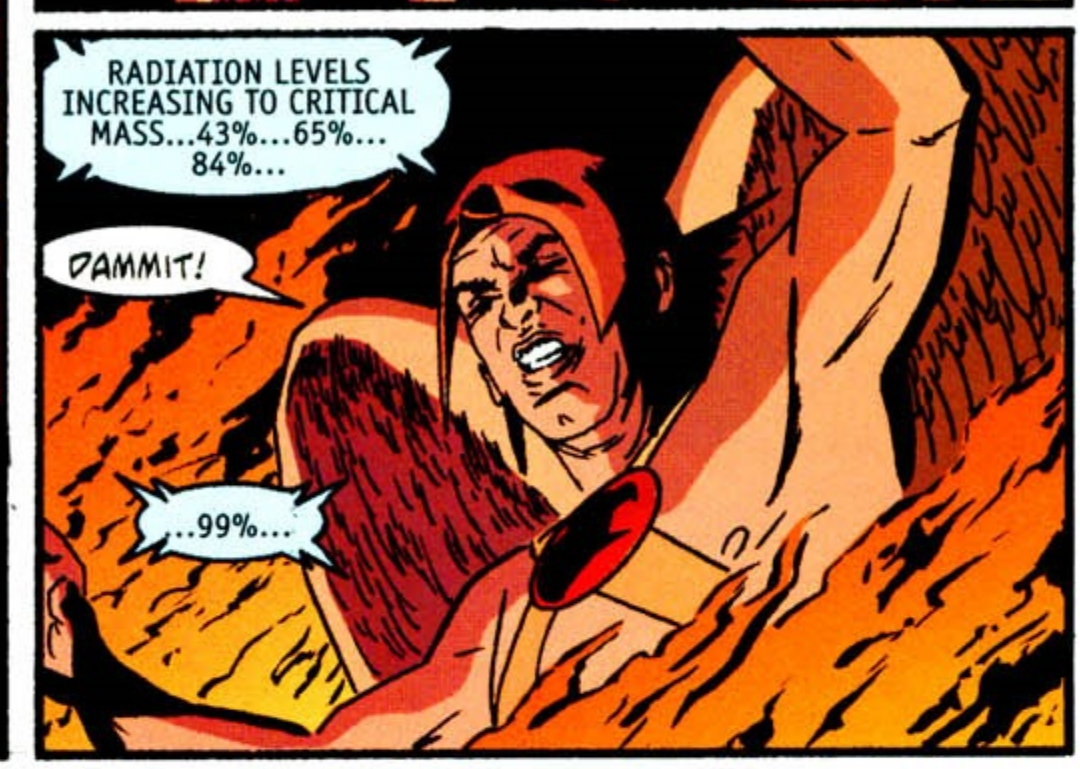
RAAWWWK!!!
HAIL, SCION OF THANAGAR!
BACK FOR MORE, I SEE...



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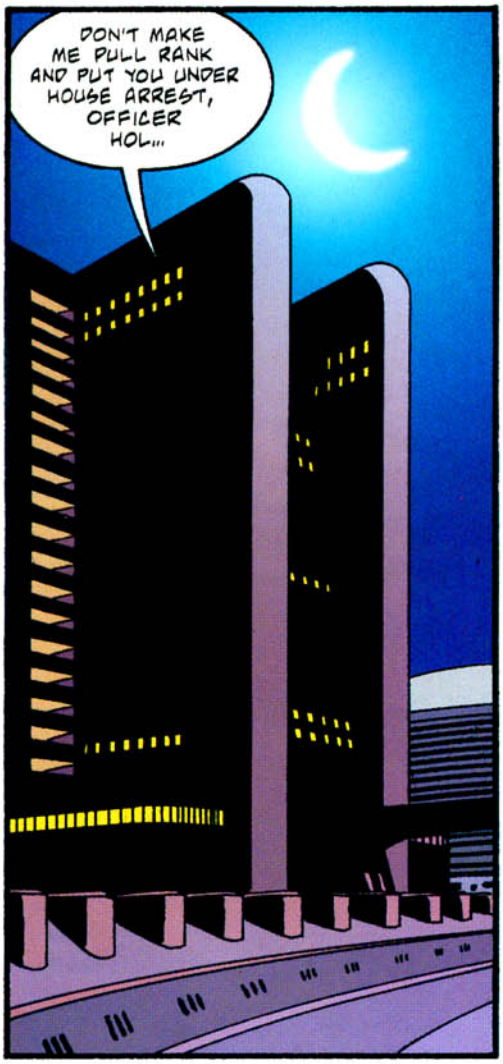
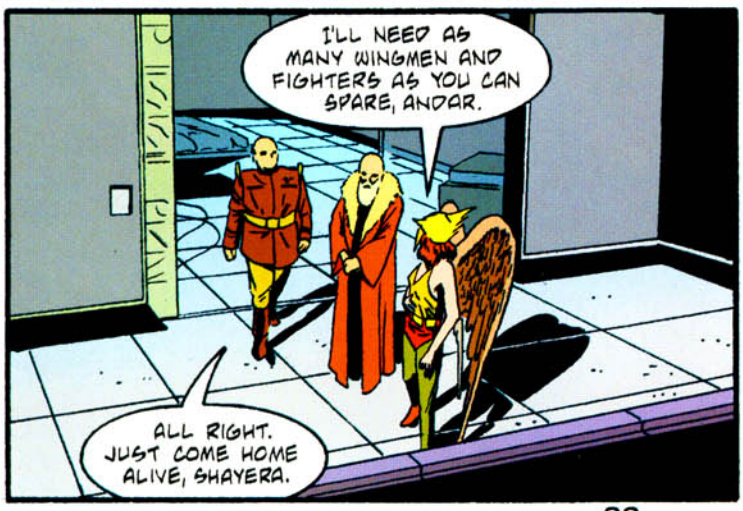
THOOM!
FAREWELL, SPAWN OF THANABAR!
SEE YOU IN HELL!


DON'T MAKE ME PULL RANK AND PUT YOU UNDER HOUSE ARREST, OFFICER HOL...

...BECAUSE IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES TO GET YOU TO STAY IN THAT BED AND REST UP, I WILL!
THERE'S BEEN NO WORD FROM KATAR, CHIEF.
IF YOU THINK I'M JUST GOING TO SIT HERE, DOING NOTHING WHILE MY HUSBAND MAY BE DEAD ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GALAXY--?

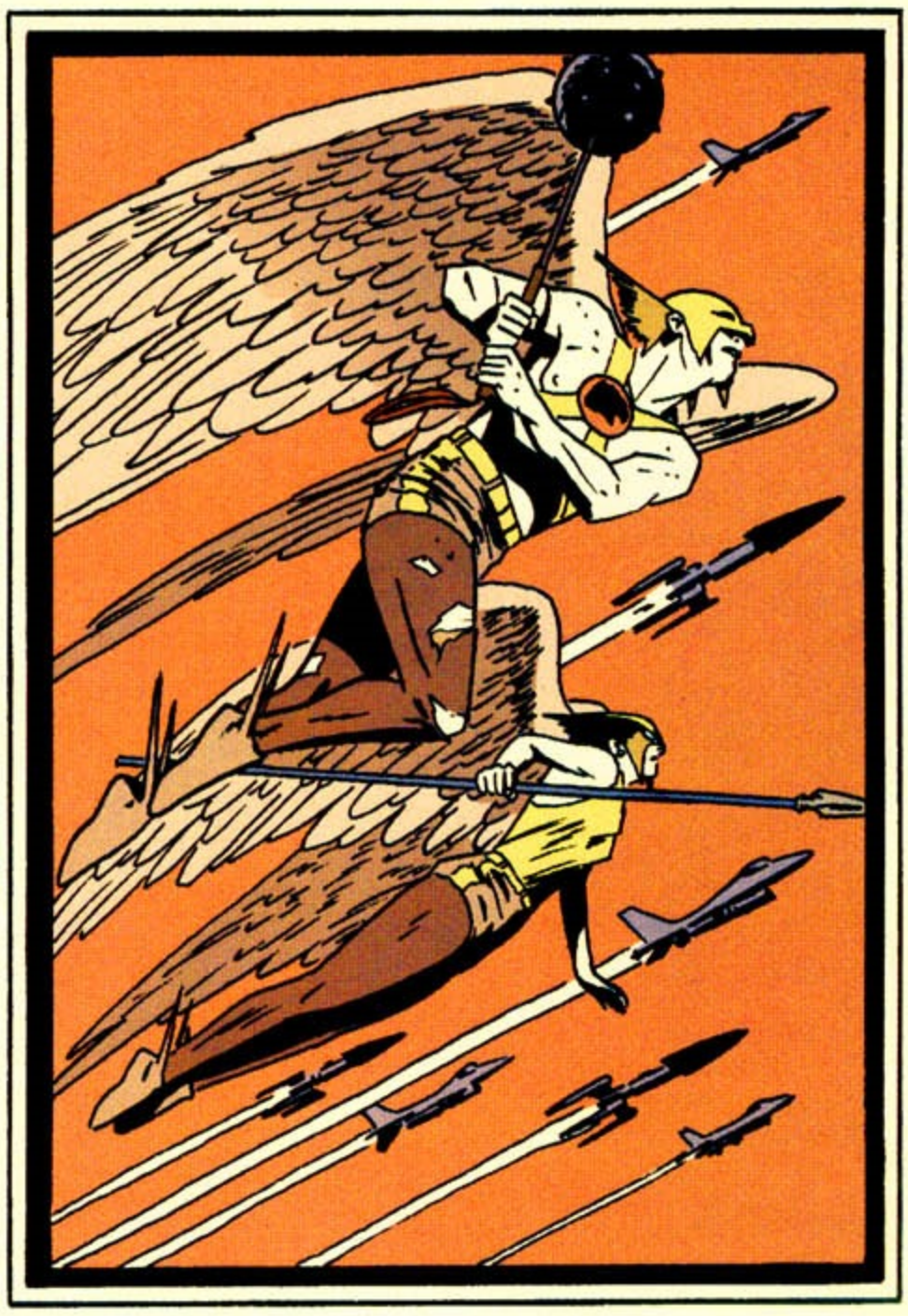
--zaaah!
YOUR HUSBAND IS THE BEST OF THE BEST, SHAYERA HOL. IF ANYONE CAN DEFEAT THASARO, IT IS HE.

THAT'S TRUE, YOUR EMINENCE. BUT...
...AS A DAUGHTER OF THE GREAT WARRIOR HOL--HE WHO FIRST LAID THE BEAST LOW CENTURIES AGO--
--THE FINAL CONFRONTATION WITH THASARO IS AS MUCH MY DESTINY AS IT IS MY HUSBAND'S.
IT'S IN MY BLOOD. AND I'LL GLADLY SACRIFICE EVERY LAST DROP OF IT--
--TO DESTROY THAT MONSTER FOR WHAT HE'S TAKEN FROM ME.


I'LL NEED AS MANY WINGMEN AND FIGHTERS AS YOU CAN SPARE, ANDAR.
ALL RIGHT. JUST COME HOME ALIVE, SHAYERA.

PRAY FOR ME THEN.
PRAY FOR US ALL...

CHAPTER TWO



Flight of Faith

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STEADY, OFFICERS! STEADY! HOLD YOUR GROUND!

COMMISSIONER, MY MEN ARE M.C.P.D.'S BEST. THEY CAN HANDLE JUST ABOUT ANY URBAN CRISIS YOU THROW AT THEM...

...BUT DON'T YOU THINK GIANT DEMON BIRDS ARE A BIT OUT OF OUR LEAGUE HERE?

WITHOUT THOSE AIRBORNE ALIENS OF YOURS, WE DON'T STAND A CHANCE!

THE HAWKS HAVE NEVER DISAPPOINTED MIDWAY CITY BEFORE. THEY WON'T NOW.

HEL-LO?!? THEY JUST GOT BLOWN TO KINGDOM COME!

JUST KEEP THE FAITH, CAPTAIN. AND DIG IN YOUR HEELS...

KKRAWWK!
...'CUZ IT'S ABOUT TO HIT THE FAN.

BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!

SKREEEEEEE
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!

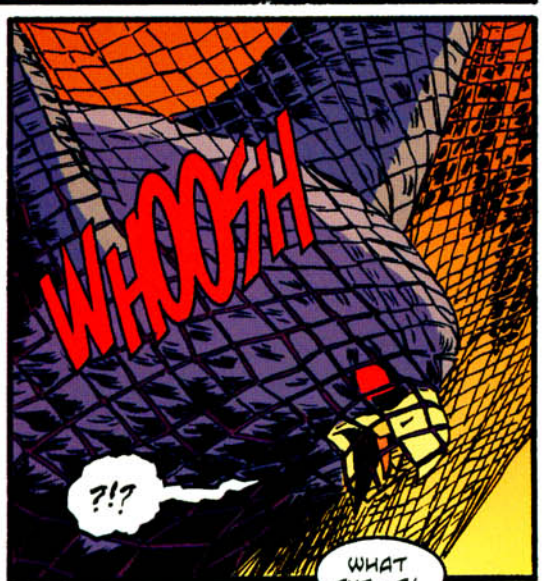
CEASE FIRE, MEN! CEASE FIRE!
I THINK WE GOT 'EM!

RAWWWK!

IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN THAT EASY...

FALL BACK!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!

RETREAT!
BLAM!


WHOOSH
?!?

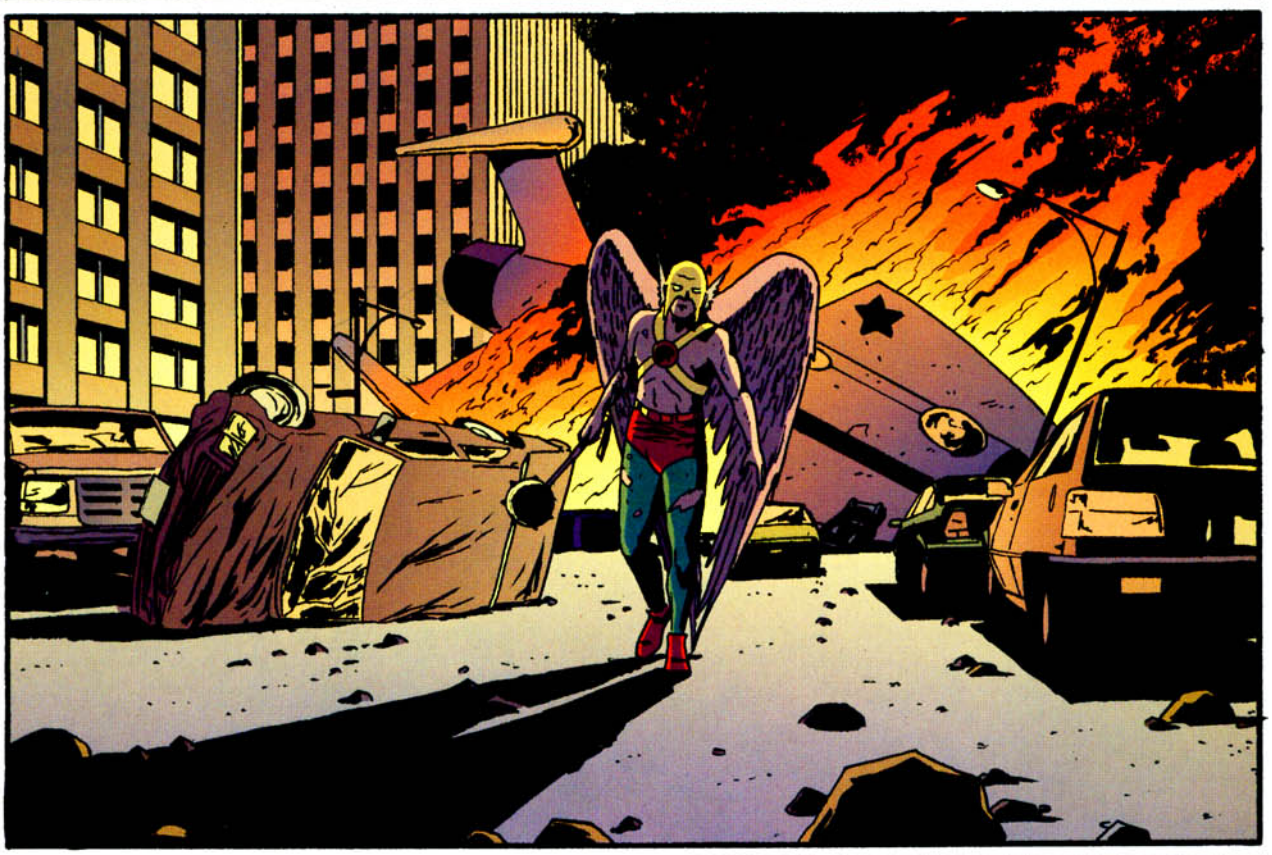
WHAT THE--?!
THANKS FOR HOLDING THE FORT, COMMISSIONER...

...WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.

HAWKGIRL! YOU'RE ALIVE!
WHEN THE SHIP WENT DOWN, WE THOUGHT YOU WERE BOTH LOST!

KATAR'S SHIP WENT DOWN?! I- IS HE-- ?!?

YOU'RE NOT A WIDOW YET, SWEETHEART.



KATAR!
GOOD LORD, MAN! IT'S A MIRACLE YOU SURVIVED THAT EXPLOSION!
SOMEONE IN HIGH PLACES MUST BE LOOKING OUT FOR YOU.

WE'LL SEE...

WHAT IS IT WITH YOU MORTALS ...?
DO YOU HONESTLY BELIEVE YOUR LITTLE TOYS ARE ANY THREAT TO ME?
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF "MADE IN AMERICA," BIRDBRAIN!

FIRE!!!

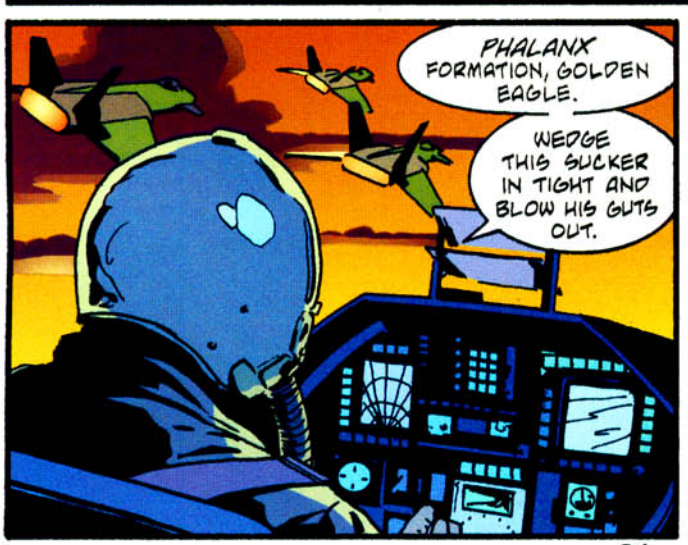
PITIFUL.

INCOMING!!!!

BA-
BOOM!

RED MAVERICK ONE TO THANAGARIAN COMMANDER. DO YOU COPY? OVER...

GOLDEN EAGLE PRIME TO RED MAVERICK ONE, LOUD AND CLEAR. HOW SHALL WE PLAY THIS...? OVER...



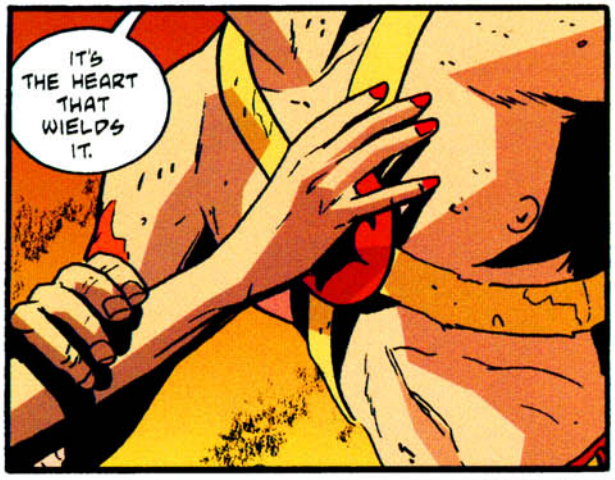
ZARK!
ZZZARK!
FOOLS! YOU PROLONG THE ÷GAH!÷ INEVITABLE!
THOUSANDS OF ÷ARRH!÷ MILLENNIA HAVE I SURVIVED!
I AM ÷UHNH!÷ BEYOND DEATH!
BOOM!
BOOM!

HE'S BLUFFING. STARTING TO WEAKEN. WE HAVE TO PRESS OUR ADVANTAGE QUICKLY.
HOW, KATAR? THOSE PILOTS CAN'T KEEP THE PRESSURE ON MUCH LONGER. THASARO'S JUST TOO POWERFUL.

LEGEND HAS IT YOUR ANCESTOR, HOL, DEFEATED THASARO WITH A SINGLE FEATHER.
WHEN WE FIRST FOUGHT THE BEAST IN TIBET, YOU YOURSELF BROUGHT HIM DOWN WITH A SIMPLE WOODEN JAVELIN.
BUT HE WAS WEAKER THEN.

I DOUBT FEATHERS AND JAVELINS WILL DO HIM MUCH HARM NOW.

IT'S NOT THE WEAPON, SHAYERA.


IT'S THE HEART THAT WIELDS IT.

JUST HAVE FAITH.
IN YOU, MY LOVE...?
ALWAYS.

GODSPEED, OLD FRIENDS...

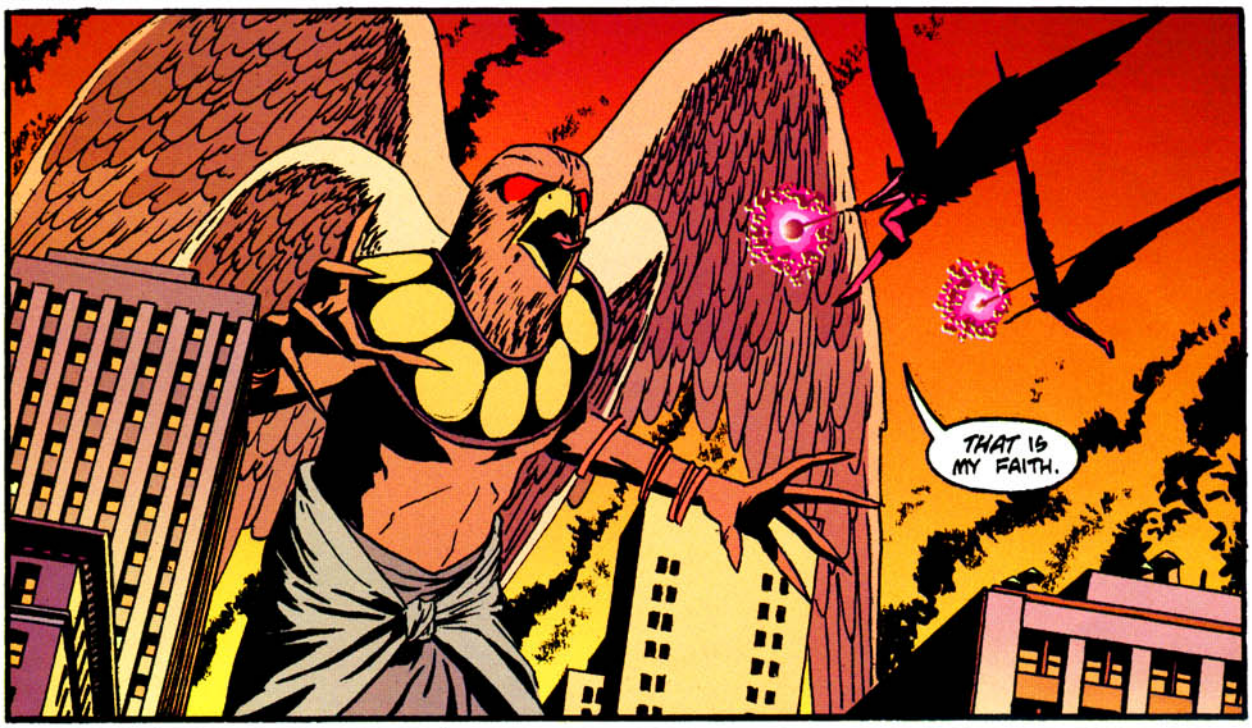
POOR LITTLE HATCHLINGS. HAD YOU NOT RELEASED ME FROM MY ETERNAL PRISON, ALL THESE LIVES WOULD HAVE BEEN SPARED.

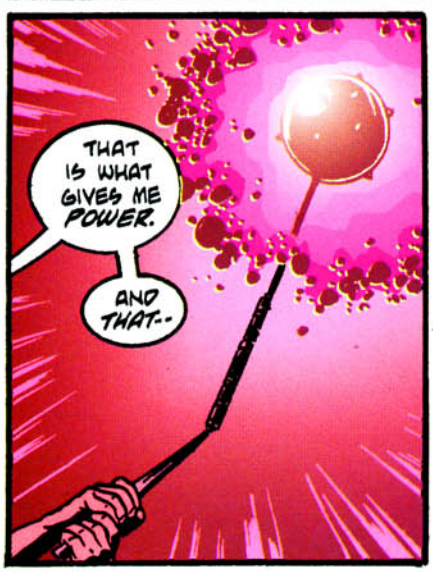
NOW THE HAND RESPONSIBLE FOR DESTROYING THIS WORLD YOU SO VALUE SHALL BE YOUR OWN?

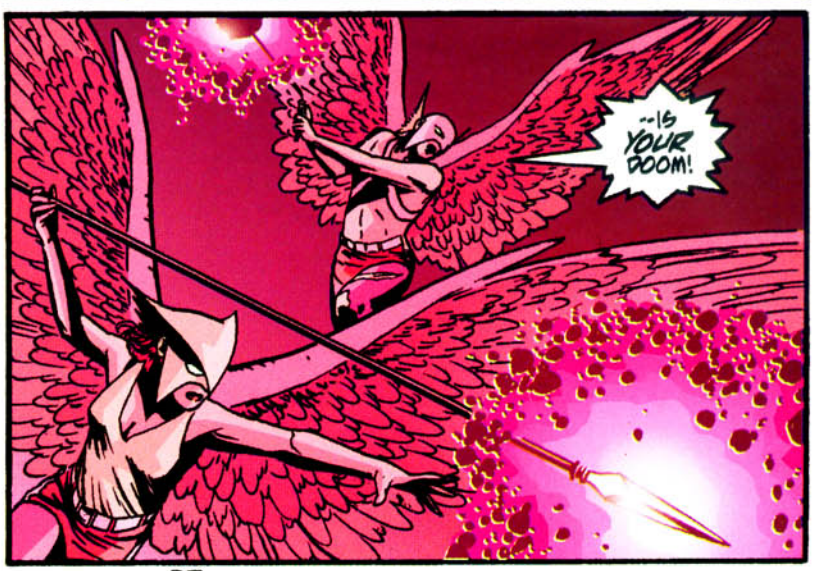
I BELIEVE IN COURAGE.

I BELIEVE IN FRIENDSHIP.

I BELIEVE IN LOVE.


THAT IS MY FAITH.


THAT IS WHAT GIVES ME POWER.
AND THAT--


--IS YOUR DOOM!

NOOO!!!!

ARRRGH!

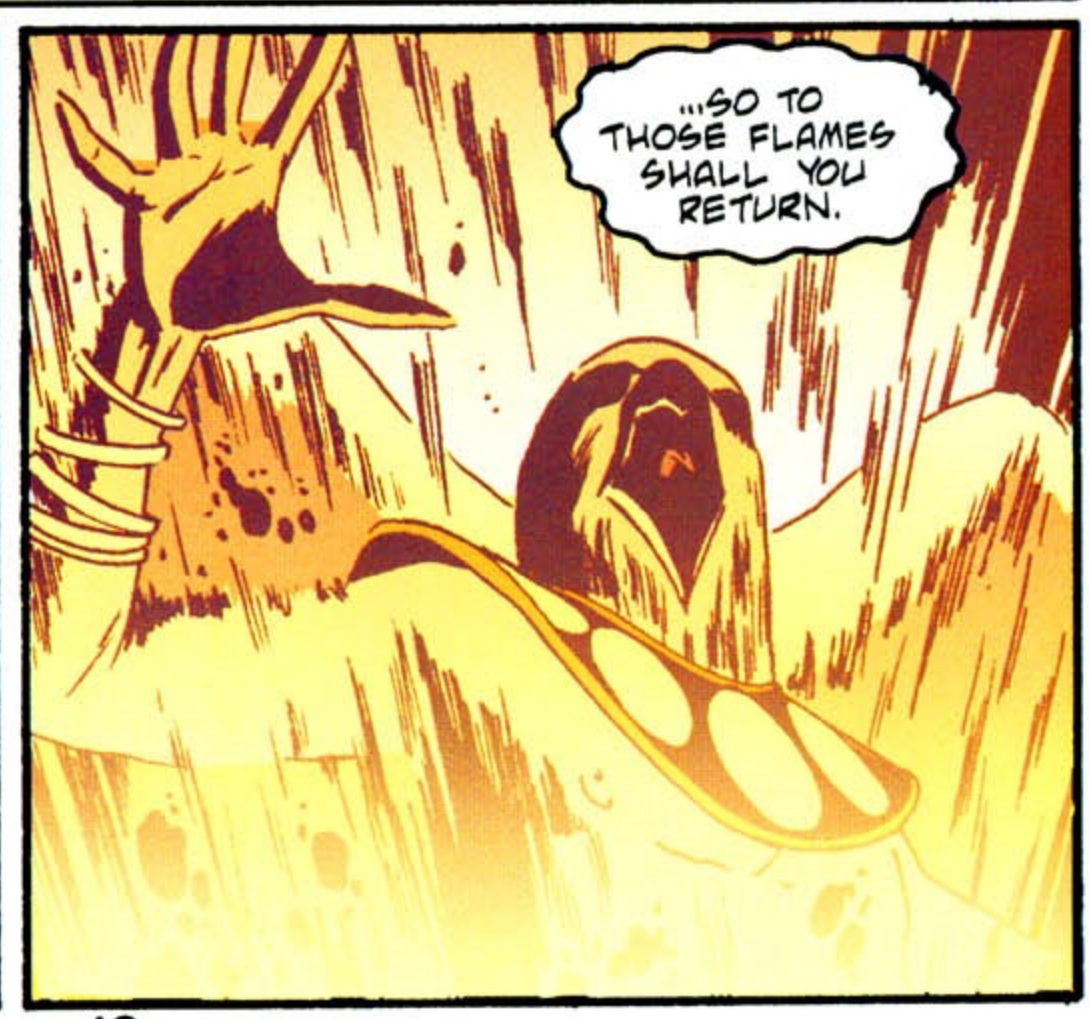
GO HAWKMAN!
NAIL 'IM!
FOR THANAGAR! FOR EARTH!

THIS...ISN'T... GUHH! THE... END.
I... WILL... RISE... HRR!... AGAIN!
NO, DEMON...
...YOU WILL NOT.

YE G-GODS...

O HEAVENLY FATHERS, HUMBLE ARE WE BEFORE YOUR GLORY...
WHOA.
MAGNIFICENT.

MERCY, O GREAT ONES!
I BEG YOU!
WHAT KNOW YOU OF MERCY, THASARO?
41



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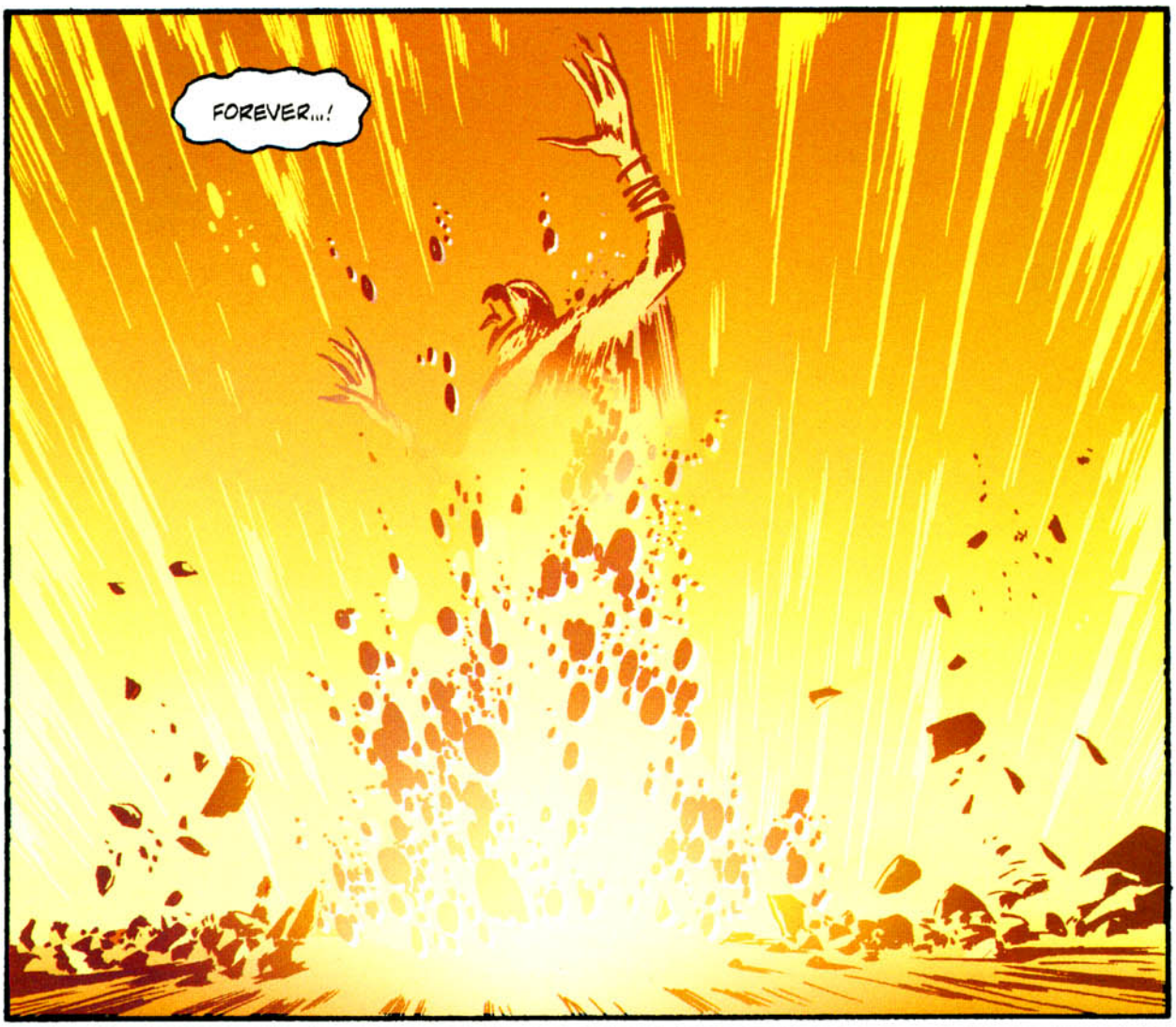
FOREVER...!

KATAR HOL! SHAYERA HOL!

TO ALL YOUR DEEDS THIS DAY HAVE WE BORNE WITNESS FROM ON HIGH.

YOUR COURAGE HAS SHONE LIKE A BEACON ACROSS THE GALAXY!

YOU HONOR US WITH YOUR BRAVERY. WE ARE IN YOUR ETERNAL DEBT.

AND AS YOU HAVE KEPT YOUR PROMISE TO US...

...SO SHALL WE KEEP OURS TO YOU.

Oh... Oh... Oh... MY GOD!

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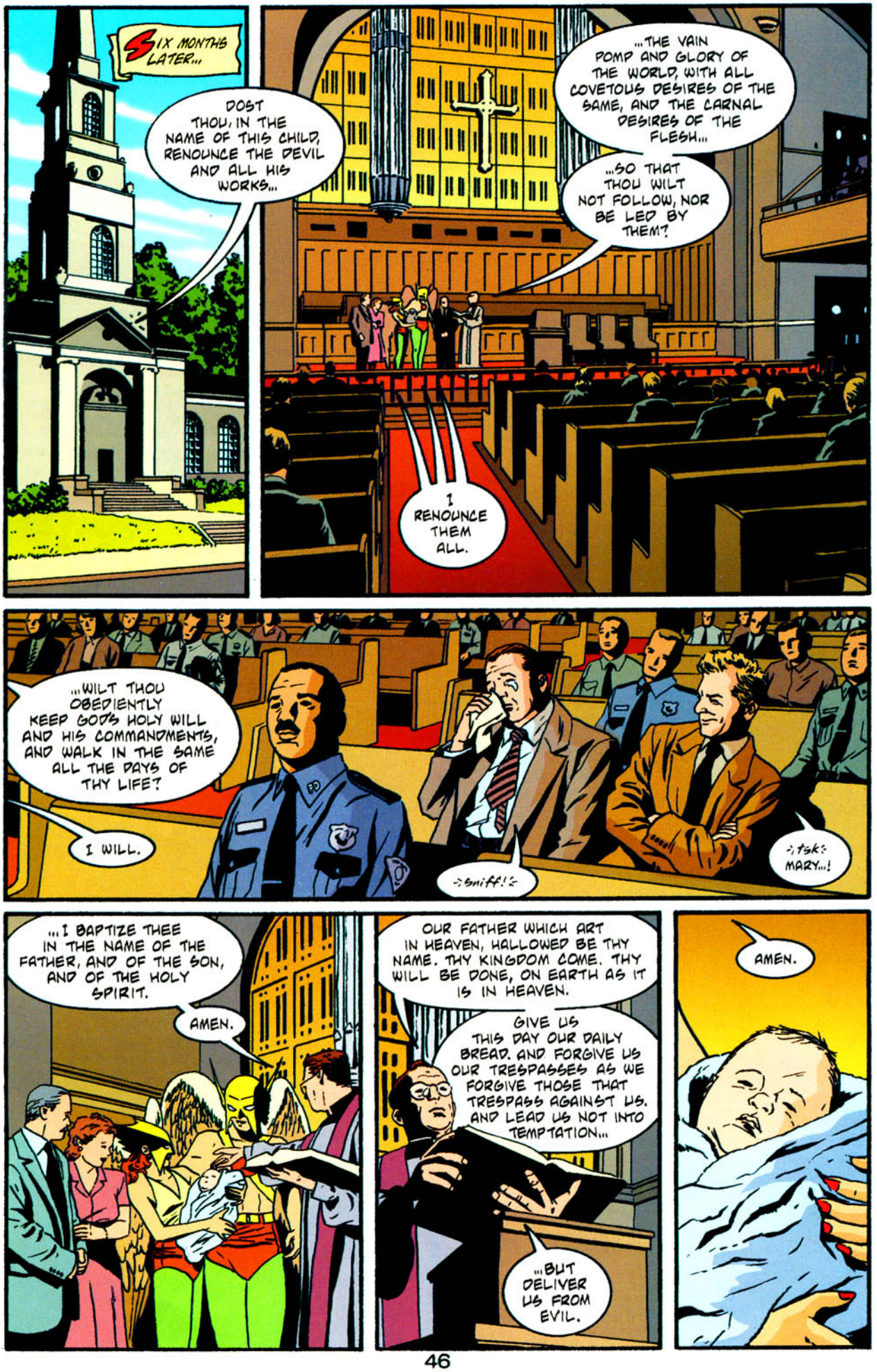
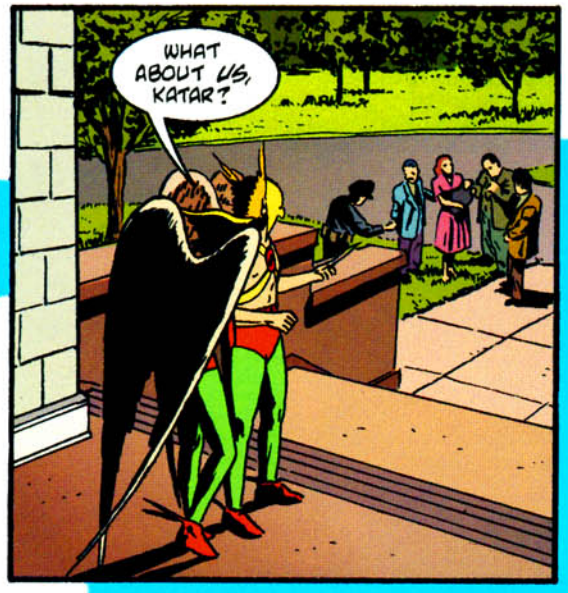
EASY, SHAY. I'VE GOT YOU.

WH-WH- WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME WAS THAT ALL ABOUT...?!

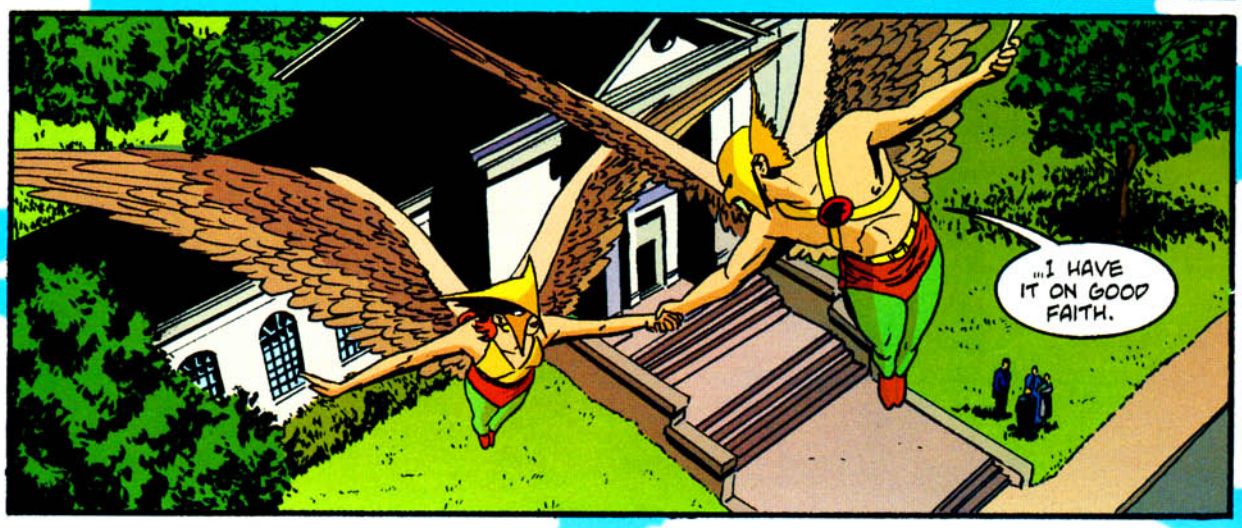
SACRIFICE.


SIX MONTHS LATER...
DOST THOU, IN THE NAME OF THIS CHILD, RENOUNCE THE DEVIL AND ALL HIS WORKS...
...THE VAIN POMP AND GLORY OF THE WORLD, WITH ALL COVETOUS DESIRES OF THE SAME, AND THE CARNAL DESIRES OF THE FLESH...
...SO THAT THOU WILT NOT FOLLOW, NOR BE LED BY THEM?
I RENOUNCE THEM ALL.
...WILT THOU OBEDIENTLY KEEP GOD'S HOLY WILL AND HIS COMMANDMENTS, AND WALK IN THE SAME ALL THE DAYS OF THY LIFE?
I WILL.
-sniff!-
-tsk- MARY...!
...I BAPTIZE THEE IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.
AMEN.
OUR FATHER WHICH ART IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE THY NAME. THY KINGDOM COME. THY WILL BE DONE, ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.
GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD. AND FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES AS WE FORGIVE THOSE THAT TRESPASS AGAINST US. AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION...
...BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL.
AMEN.


WHAT ABOUT US, KATAR?

WILL WE EVER BE SO BLESSED?

SHAYERA, HONEY...


...I HAVE IT ON GOOD FAITH.

MLARK 2000

THE END

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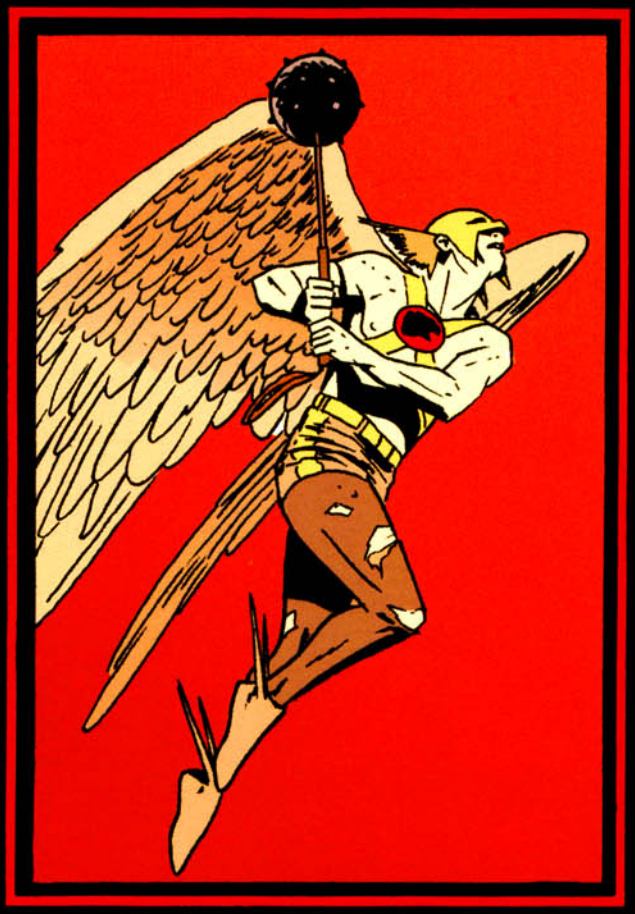
HIS VERY EXISTENCE SHAMES US.

THERE IS STILL ONE WEAPON THAT
CAN HUMBLE THIS MONSTER...
A POWER LONG LOST,
THAT YOU MAY FIND ON EARTH.



IT IS YOUR DESTINY, KATAR HOL,
IF YOU HAVE THE COURAGE TO ACCEPT IT.

SUCH IS THE NATURE OF FAITH.

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